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'CASUALNESS' OF SATELLITE AFFAIR DISTURBS HERALD

PY261609Y Buenos Aires HERALD in English 25 Jan 78 p 8 PY

[Editorial: "More Safeguards, Please"]

[Text] To judge by the reactions of government officials in Washington, Moscow, and Ottawa, the unscheduled descent of a nuclear-powered Soviet satellite near the Canadian town of Yellowknife was a routine matter, certainly nothing to get worked up about. Less directly involved people, not inured yet to the possibility of dangerous radioactive material being dumped on them from the skies, are unlikely to be quite so sanguine. The chances of a major mishap may be slight, but they do exist nonetheless.

There is little danger of two nuclear satellites colliding with each other and thus spilling their contents: space, even near space, is simply too vast to get that cluttered for many years to come. What is dangerous is the rapidly increasing casualness with which the big powers appear to be handling the colossal destructive power at their disposal. A couple of decades ago nuclear weapons were regarded with a terrified awe that approached hysteria. The possibility of the world being blown into tiny pieces at any moment lay heavily on men's minds. These dangers were no doubt greatly exaggerated. But they did at least oblige most governments, even the generally unresponsive Soviet one, to treat nuclear devices with respect. But now, however, nuclear terror has become domesticated. Its capacity to scare the wits out of people has declined. It is banal. Because we have learned to live with an omnipresent, permanent menace of fiery destruction, it seems to have receded over the horizon. But the prospects of it happening are surely far greater now than was the case when nuclear hysteria was at its height and numbers of U.S. families were digging bomb shelters in their back-yards.

The desire of the governments of the U.S., Canada, and Soviet Union to protect the public from knowledge it may not know how to handle was understandable, but the speed and ease with which they managed to downplay this minor but significant incident suggests that they are all beginning to treat the danger of a nuclear holocaust, inadvertent or intended, with comfortable familiarity. If this is the feeling of the people at the top, people, moreover, who could be expected to emphasize their concern for public fears rather than the reverse, then the approach of the growing number of lower echelon people in a position to cause a catastrophe must be positively happy-go-lucky. An increase in the number of nuclear devices in the sky, and increase in the number of countries, agencies, and individuals associated with them, and the increasing willingness of everybody to take nuclear power for granted, combine to make it seem certain that one day a fearsome accident is going to take place, somewhere, when a bigger engine of destruction burns itself out in or near a more densely inhabited area than the wilderness north of Yellowknife.

CLARIN: SPACE INCIDENT PROVES STRENGTH OF LEADERS

PY251747Y Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 25 Jan 78 p 21 PY

[Commentary by Roberto Pablo Guareschi]

[Text] The solitary Canadian farmer, numb with cold, must have thought "the ball of fire followed by some 20 other balls of fire" that fell from the sky was a supernatural sign. Maybe it was a meteorite, or maybe even the remains of some extraterrestrial spaceship. [paragraph continues]

He would have never thought that those flaming masses were the happy ending to an accident which had tried all the nerve--and the intelligence--of the most powerful governments on earth: that it had tried the capability of the United States and the USSR to manage the most powerful arms. He had no reason for knowing this. None of us (men in the cities) knew it...until today. Now that Cosmos 954 has reached our planet in flames, only now do we know that in some officies in Washington and Moscow (and only there) at a certain date around the second half of last December, some high-ranking United States intelligence officer reported to his government that a Soviet satellite with 42 kilograms of highly enriched uranium had gone out of orbit.

WAS IT AN ACCIDENT? WAS IT A TRICK? WAS IT DANGEROUS?

We already know the end to this story. Zbigniew Brzezinski has already said that the USSR then guaranteed that there would be no nuclear explosion. But he also said that at first the Soviet information WAS NOT "COMPLETELY SATISFACTORY."

The entire United States defense system (unimaginable to us because of its magnitude and complexity) was put on alert; it was a military "spy" satellite; it was known that its job was to patrol United States waters and ships.

James Carter probably asked: Is that REALLY all? He, who had probably seen that famous picture "Doctor No," was suddenly in a slightly similar situation: he, only a newcomer to the United States presidency.

If Jimmy did not "learn to love the bomb" (as did the sinister "Doctor No"), then he probably realized that the "bombs" can be dominated. Well, today's United States President, a long-time sailor and nuclear engineer, probably knew something about the subject. Did his nerves stand the pressure? If he didn't know it before, he was briefed on arrival at the White House that the Soviet Union had developed satellites capable of destroying others with atomic charges.

It is easy to know now that it was finally decided in the other offices (the ones in Moscow) to give Washington all the necessary information. What we do not know is the magnitutde of the United States' doubts.

The Soviets informed then that Cosmos 954 could fall "in densely populated areas" of United States territory. While Carter, Brzezinski, and Harold Brown (Pentagon chief) evaluated all the possibilities, the inhabitants of some United States cities had no idea of the dispositions being taken to save them.

There were a few moments during those "permanent contacts" in which all the sophisticated game of world politics must have been reduced to a simple common sense issue, to that formula which is the basis of detente policy: "I believe you because what is harmful to me is harmful to you and everyone else."

The most serious problem was resolved. The "nervous system" of Western defense (already on alert) would not work--probably with Soviet help--to determine the place where the crazy satellite would fall.

In order to fully appreciate what they were going through we should know that yesterday the Canadian Government said that if the satellite had not disintegrated before crashing, the life of the region where it fell "WOULD HAVE BEEN SERIOUSLY THREATENED."

As 24 January (yesterday) neared, the precautions must have really intensified. There was--as we now know--an atomic alert in several NATO countries, including, Italy, Denmark, and the FRG. The alert has already been cancelled.

This has been the first accident of this kind in the history of space aeronautics: THE FIRST ACCIDENT WHICH INVOLVED THE WHOLE WORLD.

Even though the possibility of "radioactive fallout in some part of the planet" (the remainders of the uranium which disintegrated in space) has still not been discarded, we can breathe. United States-Soviet cooperation has been "magnificent," according to Brzezinski. The owners of the power of destruction knew how to handle themselves.

V CORPS COMMANDER STRESSES TROOP READINESS

PY271638Y Buenos Aires Radio El Mundo in Spanish 1500 GMT 27 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Within the military sphere, the remarks made by Maj Gen Jose Antonio Vaquero, V Corps commander, are significant. Vaquero, in San Martin de los Andes, said: The government has made a political decision and I am a commander of troops and my mission is clear: to have the corps in optimum operational condition in order to implement the decisions which emerge from the political decision which has been adopted. He added that these decisions are made and ordered by his commander in chief.

GROUP CLAIMS RESPONSIBILITY FOR LAN-CHILE ATTACK

PY271816Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1624 GMT 27 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 27 Jan--The self-styled group Argentine Youth for Sovereignty [Juventud Argentina por la Soberania] today claimed responsibility for the attack on the offices of the Chilean airline LAN-Chile on 26 January. The attack took place yesterday at approximately 0030 local time (0330 GMT), when several shots were fired from a car at the offices of LAN-Chile.

The group, which sent a typewritten letter to AFP, indicated that it had taken "this action to give another indication that the Argentine people will not cede one inch of (their) national territory." The letter concludes with a warning "that those who have the management of this conflict in their hands must not make a mistake, because we will not allow it."

THREE ARMED FORCES SECRETARIES TO VISIT SANTIAGO

PY281635Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1325 GMT 28 Jan 78 PY

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 28 Jan--The subject of the Beagle Channel again made the front pages of the Buenos Aires newspapers, because of the new stage opened in the negotiations through the announcement that the three secretaries of the armed forces will go to Chile to arrange certain matters for the coming summit meeting between Presidents Videla and Pinochet.

Meanwhile, during its first meeting this year, the national cabinet heard a report by Foreign Minister Oscar Montes on the border dispute with Chile.

The morning paper LA OPINION maintains that the talks to be held by the secretaries general of the armed forces, Gen Reynaldo Brignone of the army, Vice Adm Eduardo Fracassi of the navy and Brig Gen Basilio Lami Dozo of the air force, will be the beginning of a round of preliminary meetings which may take place alternatively in Santiago and Buenos Aires during the week.

The paper continues: These preliminary talks were reportedly agreed upon during the mission in this capital this week of Gen Agustin Tordo Davila, the second personal envoy from the Chilean president in little more than 2 weeks.

LA NACION carries the headline "Armed Forces Chiefs Will Go to Chile; High Commands To Discuss Document To Be Signed by Videla and Pinochet." This paper believes that decisive steps will be taken next week to smooth the road for the new meeting between presidents.

LA PRENSA gave priority to the cabinet meeting. The headline says "Foreign Minister Gave Beagle Report in Cabinet," adding that it was stated in Chile that the idea of a new presidential meeting is still valid. The paper states that official and military circles are silent on events which may occur before that meeting (it was learned that the meeting will be held in Puerto Montt on 6 February).

The tabloid CLARIN says across the whole page that "The Dialog With Chile Will Be Renewed Next Week" and reports that at their week meeting the day after tomorrow, the secretary generals of the three forces will fix the date when they will go to Santiago in the same week. It asserts that the continued preparations for the new summit meeting confirm the optimism felt at the end of the first presidential meeting, an optimism which has been maintained despite later official attitudes.

The paper points out that both the Argentine Government declaration nullifying the Beagle Channel arbitration decision, and the Chilean reaction confirming that Chile accepts the decision, were acts which could be forseen and were unavoidable within the legal framework of the dispute.

CRONICA, finally, announces that a military commission will reportedly go to Chile to reach an agreement on the terms of the document which will be signed at the meeting between the two presidents.

NEW GROUP BACKS GOVERNMENT ECONOMIC POLICY

PY231305Y Buenos Aires HERALD in English 22 Jan 78 pp 3, 8 PY

["Politics and Labour" column by James Neilson]

[Excerpt] At long last, 22 months after the Peronists were evicted from power, a significant political group has come out in support of the government's economic policy. The "Federation of Federalist Forces" is a coalition of chiefly provincial factions that includes no fewer than 13 former governors. In a statement made last week they said: "We are going to fill a growing political space by supporting the economic plan that, with every day, that passes, is regarded with decreasing scepticism."

Among the members of the groups composing the FFF are Sylvestre Begnis, Celestino Gelsi, Horacio Guzman, Isamel Amit, and Horacio Agulla. They announced their intention of issuing a statement in support of the present government with special emphasis on the economy programme.

AIR FORCE SETS AIR-TO-AIR FIRING PRACTICE

PY261634Y Buenos Aires Radio El Mundo in Spanish 1500 GMT 26 Jan 78 PY

[Text] It has been reported that today and tomorrow Mirage airplanes based at the 8th Air Brigade in the city of Jose C. Paz will carry out air-to-air target practice over Samborombon Bay. The supersonic jets will operate from their base.

BRIEFS

NAVY APPOINTMENTS--Puerto Belgrano, 20 Jan--Naval Operations Chief Vice Adm Antonio Vanek today installed Rear Adm Leopoldo Alfredo Suarez del Cerro as chief of staff of naval operations. Suarez replaces Rear Adm Ruben Franco, who will take up his duties as public information secretary of the presidency on 1 February. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1848 GMT 20 Jan 78 PY]

MORE NAVY APPOINTMENTS--Capt (Oscar Guillermo Vanten) was installed yesterday as chief of staff of the Marine Infantry Command. [Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 12 Jan 78 PY]

NEW SUBMARINE COMMANDERS--Mar Del Plata, 13 Jan--Capt Eulogio A. Moya Latrunesse has taken over as the new commander of the submarine "Salta," replacing Capt Guillermo Montenegro, and Capt Felix Bartolome is the new commander of the submarine "San Luis," replacing Capt Antonio Mozzarelli. The outgoing commanders have been assigned to other positions in the navy. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2005 GMT 13 Jan 78 PY]

NAVY EXERCISES--Bahia Blanca, 18 Jan--Exercises for passive defense were carried out at night on 17 January at the Puerto Belgrano Navy Base, it was reported by the navy operations command on 18 January. The report added that after watching the preparations for defense and the blackout of the area, the command rated the exercises very high. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2305 GMT 18 Jan 78 PY]

NEW INTELLIGENCE SECRETARY--Buenos Aires, 23 Jan--Brig Gen Carlos Martinez was installed this afternoon as state intelligence [SIDE] secretary. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2330 GMT 23 Jan 78 PY]

ARMY APPOINTMENTS--Mendoza, 23 Jan--Col Julio Alberto Munoz was installed today as deputy commander of the 8th Mountain Infantry Brigade. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2230 GMT 23 Jan 78 PY]

NEW INTERVENTOR APPOINTED--Buenos Aires, 27 Jan--Col Jose Hipolito Nunez has been appointed as the new interventor in the General Labor Confederation (CGT) replacing Col Julio Cesar Porcile, who has been assigned to a post in the air force in Cordoba Province. Colonel Nunez will assume his new post on 30 January 1978. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2150 GMT 27 Jan 78 PY]

MAGAZINE ISSUE BANNED--Buenos Aires--The executive branch cordered today to prohibit the distribution, sale and circulation throughout the territory of the country of issue No 24 of the magazine CREER. Bernardo Neustadt is the director of the magazine. [Text] [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1320 GMT 27 Jan 78 PY]

PERIODICAL BANNED--The distribution, sale and circulation of the weekly TRIBUNA DE LA REPUBLICA has been banned throughout Argentina, by executive decree. The decree also orders the closing of its offices for 3 months. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0010 GMT 24 Jan 78 PY]

BANZER TO SEND CARTER LETTER ON TIN PRICES

PY2817l7Y Sucre Radio La Plata in Spanish 1630 GMT 28 Jan 78 PY

[Text] President Hugo Banzer Suarez will send a letter to U.S. President Jimmy Carter, asking for his cooperation to solve the problem posed by the International Tin Council [ITC] regarding fluctuations of tin prices. After yesterday's cabinet meeting the mining and metallurgy minister said that the producer countries had stood united at the last ITC meeting, which means that in principle they are agreed on trying to achieve tin prices which give fair compensation for the work of exploitation.

General Banzer stated that he will send his letter to his U.S. counterpart within the next few days.

STATION DENIES PRESSURE LED TO 'FACETAS' REMOVAL

PY2702l0Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 26 Jan 78 PY

[Excerpts] To the Bolivian public:

Dear listeners, you are, of course, aware of the decision to permanently take the program "Facetas" off the air. Out of sheer respect for our listeners and to keep persons and institutions free from any misunderstandings, we wish to tell you that the Bolivian Baptist Church, owner of this radio station, has not been subjected to personal or institutional pressure to reach this decision.

Thus, there are no grounds for the information published by the afternoon daily ULTIMA HORA last Tuesday that a government official had pressed the executive board of this radio station to take the program off the air. In line with its Christian principles and guidelines, the Bolivian Baptist Church will not accept, either from persons or institutions, suggestions or pressures harmful to its position as a preacher of the gospel, nor is it willing to give up cooperating with the country reporting the truth. This position has never been threatened or changed.

The executive board of the Bolivian Baptist Church has indicated that it will continue broadcasting the entire truth of every news item, reflecting the true situation of every sector of the country with the appropriate lack of bias, thus enabling Bolivian listeners to exercise their full right to have their own opinion and not be guided by the opinion of either groups or persons.

Both Radio Cruz del Sur and the Bolivian Baptist Church are fully aware of the positive task carried out by "Facetas'" team members, who have done their best to produce the high-quality news you have been listening to daily and to provide you with a full and analytical picture of the current situation of the country, especially at times which are difficult for the country. These merits of the program "Facetas" are beyond dispute and cannot be changed by the opinions of persons or groups.

It is our purpose to fill the vacuum left by "Facetas" with a program which, although of a different quality, will have the structure of a news cast in magazine format, with the usual characteristic of Radio Cruz del Sur, which is to preach truth and reflect the true events and situations without any pretension at influencing either morally or spiritually the citizens of Bolivia.

Our 28 years of service are a clear testimony that we have served our people without factional or political bias. Even in the difficult times the country has lived through we never paid heed to the risks in our task of serving truth and nothing but the truth, because we do not serve man alone, but essentially the Lord our God.

We thank you for giving us the opportunity of making this explanation, and you may rest assured that miners, workers, businessmen, students, leaders and peasants will always have a humble servant in Radio Cruz del Sur. May God guide us. We need it. Thank you.

UNION COORDINATORS REFUSE TO YIELD TO RIVALS

PY270115Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 25 Jan 78 PY

[Text] The coordinators of the Paz Factory Workers' Federation decided to respect the Labor Ministry's decree and not hand over the union building to the grassroots committee. More than 100 workers from various La Paz factories congregated at the headquarters of the federation to which they belong, where the grassroots leaders had gone to reassure direction of that labor sector after coming out of hiding.

After the grassroots leaders had talked for a few minutes with the labor coordinators, the coordinators decided not to leave the union building, arguing that they would respect the Labor Ministry decree which orders the present coordinators to remain in the leadership until the election of new leaders. (Felipe Tapia) and (Victor Lema), the principal leaders of the factory workers' grassroots committee, explained that they would assure the union's leadership by mandate of the workers. They said they were doing this in view of the resumption of union rights ordered by the government, and as a result of frank dialog.

However, in spite of prolonged talk, the labor coordinators for the factory workers refused to leave the union building. The great majority of the grassroots workers reacted to this action by threatening to hold work stoppages in all the factories in La Paz unless they handed over the headquarters. Tapia stated that the federation had been based on frank dialog so that the grassroots committee would be in charge of the elections in factory unions and that the committee would be made the true representative of factory workers.

The meeting between the parties concluded when the labor coordinators decided to remain in the headequarters of the La Paz Factory Workers' Federation.

The Mineworkers Federation called the labor minister's statements, that labor coordinators would remain in their posts until the election of new leaders, an affront to the decree establishing union rights. The influential Bolivian Mineworkers Federation [FSTMB], which emerged from hiding to take over the leadership of the union, said in a communique delivered to the press that the labor minister's assertions denied the union's rights, and was against the provisions and spirit of the decree establishing the rights of unions and groups with democratically elected leaderships in accordance with the general law and the political orientation of the state.

The note sent by the Bolivian Mining Federation to the most influential mining entity indicates that it does not deny or recognize the workers' union representation, but that the Labor Ministry is the organization which [should accept] its legal status first.

The Mining Federation communique says: The position of the Labor Ministry and the Mining Corporation of Bolivia [COMLBOL] is an affront to the very decree ordering the reestablishmentof union rights. As you know, Labor Minister Mario Vargas Salinas stated that the present labor coordinators should remain in power until the election of the new union, federation and confederation leaders. The Mining Federation communique states that the grassroots workers should demand that the government fully recognize the leaders elected in the Corocoro Congress. It concludes by saying that two representatives should be elected to speed up and carry out the agreement concerning the reincorporation of workers dismissed because of political and union reasons.

A last-minute report: During the last few hours the Bolivian Mining Corporation delivered a report in which it says that COMIBOL lost 66 million Bolivian pesos, equivalent to $3,343,000, as a result of the work stoppages held in production areas. The work stoppages ordered in the mines and industrial parks also economically harmed the workers themselves, since they did not receive their salaries because the strike was decreed illegal, and because of the production utilities which [words indistinct] stable, according to the document delivered by COMIBOL during the last few hours.

Labor Coordinators To Stay

PY271326Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330g GMT 26 Jan 78 PY

[Text] In view of the changes of union leadership which took place recently, and especially after the government had announced freedom for union activities, the Labor and Education Ministries have issued communiques indicating that labor coordinators will retain their positions until the process of union democratization is completed.

The Education Ministry has announced that it will not accept any executive boards which may attempt to take over the leadership of teachers organizations through force, and stressed that labor coordinators will be relieved only after the new leaders are elected. Yesterday the labor coordinators of the Urban Teachers Association of La Paz announced the transfer of leadership to the leaders who has been elected before the union recess. This happened after a meeting which according to the coordinators took place in an atmosphere of friendlines, serenity and maturity characteristic of urban teachers throughout the country.

Labor Ministry sources indicated that all labor coordinators are still subject to compulsive civil service and will continue on their jobs until the process of union democratization is concluded. In the meantime, La Paz Department rural teachers issued a communique signed by an ad hoc committee headed by [name indistinct] in which they announced having rejected departmental and national labor coordinators because they are not the genuine representatives of the sector, and indicated that they had created an ad hoc committee whose job will be to prepare the elections.

INDIAN ORGANIZATION REPORTS ON GOALS

PY261703Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 25 Jan 78 PY

[Text] The so-called Tupac Katari Peasant Center has issued a document in which it outlines everything concerning this organization, its hopes and goals. We will now read parts of this document:

The Tupac Katari Peasant Group, an organization with popular support and a strong civic and patriotic nature, was closed down in 1971 and 1975 even though it had not committed any political crime against the present government or any common crime against justice. Through education, it was trying to define the ideals of the Bolivian Indian people, such as the establishment of sports, cultural and agricultural centers, the socio-economic improvement of [words indistinct], the acquisition of a peasant radio station, and the creation of an agricultural college.

At the time of its closure, the center was conducting its usual educational functions under a loan to the project, training 30 youths for an animal health campaign, buying desk material, veterinary and scientific instruments, [words indistinct] and purchasing shares in a radio station for 376,000 Bolivian pesos.

For us, politics means the conscientious participation of the citizenry in the country's destiny. Why do they prevent us from presenting our ideas for a Bolivian Government? Who are the few privileged ones allowed to practice politics? We have not come from another part of the world; we are our ancestors' legitimate heirs. That is why our policy is not partisan, much less divisionist. Our policy is to defend the interests of the Bolivian Indian people, including the Aymaras, Quechuas, Chipayas, (Urenos), (Guaranies), Chiquitanos and Chiriguands, and the socio-economically poor peasants, farmers, miners, factory workers, harvesters, transportation workers, retail merchants, university students, professors and [word indistinct].

However, the civic and patriotic nature of our organization never forces one to hid or take part in actions which are against the interests of our people. That is why we condemned the massacre of our [word indistinct] brothers, rejected birth control and repudiated the immigration of 150,000 white racist families from southern Africa.

We have proposed the organization of the Aymaras and Quechuas, and we have [word indistinct] struggled without pause for the general amnesty and union rights, while looking forward to participating in the 1978 elections.

Finally, the Tupac Katari Peasant Group recognizes (Genaro Flores) as the leader of the Bolivian National Peasants Federation, elected in 1971 and reelected in 1977 during the Ayoayo convention, and (Marcial Panaviri) as the leader of the La Paz Peasants Federation, elected during the Collana Congress in January, 1977. They both received massive peasant support.

The group which issued this document has about 50,000 members. We have just read what we considered to be the most important parts of the document issued to the Bolivian people by the Tupac Katari group.

GEISEL TRIP TO U.S. 'ALMOST CERTAIN'

FY271648Y Sao Paulo Cadeia Verde Amarela in Portuguese 1000 GMT 27 Jan 78 FY

[Text] Despite the insistence of Itamaraty and Planalto Palace that there is nothing definite about Geisel's trip to the United States, it seems almost certain that he will make that trip. However, the possibility of that trip still depends on the results of talks which President Carter will hold with Brazilian officials when he visits Brazil in late March or early April.

GEISEL URGES JOINT ANTITERRORISM EFFORT

FY262248Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 25 Jan 78 p 7 FY

[Interview granted by Brazilian President Ernesto Geisel to the Uruguayan National Directorate for Public Relations [DINARP] at Planalto Palace on 11 January]

[Excerpt] [Question] Do you believe that terrorism will increase this year? If you do, what would you say would be the best measure to curb it?

[Answer] I cannot forecast the development of terrorism for 1978. There is terrorism not only in our countries but in European and Middle East countries as well as in Asian and other American countries. This phenomenon, which often has ideological motivations--most of the time it has ideological motivations--varies in intensity. In Brazil, for example, there had been a great deal of terrorism over several years, but now it is practically eradicated. I am, however, unable to say with absolute certainty that it will not reappear in the future, nor can I say that hijackings, kidnapings, and other things will not reappear in Brazil as they do elsewhere. Besides, this phenomenon is historical, it is not something new, it has existed in the past with a greater or lesser degree of intensity, thus demanding a greater or lesser amount of repressive action. I believe that most of this problem could be, if not totally solved, at least reduced, if all the countries could reach an agreement and establish regulations aimed at a joint effort. I believe that terrorism in itself must be strongly condemned because it disrupts people's lives, it prevents people from engaging in peaceful toil, it creates an atmosphere of unrest and it gives rise to barbarity and crimes. However, should all the countries of the world join the battle against terrorism, and especially if none would shelter terrorists, I believe that the problem would decrease and even disappear within a short time.

COURT OFFICIAL DISCUSSES REPLACEMENT OF AI-5

FY271344Y Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 26 Jan 78 p 9 FY

[Text] Brasilia--Jacy Pinheiro, vice president of the Supreme Military Court, stated yesterday that "Institutional Act No 5 [AI-5] has been the main support of the current regime. A similar mechanism should be created to replace it if it is going to be changed."

"A return to the period before 1964 should never be allowed, because the country must go forward and not backward." As he sees it, "many people have distorted ideas about democracy."

"I understand democracy as a responsibility. It must also create legal norms of self-defense. In all currently known regimes, there is always a safety valve. Therefore, the doors to AI-5--our shield--cannot be open."

He feels that a reformulation of the national security law should be adapted to the present situation, toward easing the punishments.

"It would be interesting to create more appropriate legislation, because the present national security law is a little out of date. The situation was very difficult when it was created, because subversion was at large in the period before 1964."

He suggests the elimination of capital punishment and life imprisonment from the new security law. But he warned that "this amendment should never allow a return to the period before 1964."

Pinheiro feels that the Supreme Military Court "has been quite humane, good and just in implementing the sentences, always trying to alleviate them."

NEW WELL IN CAMPOS BASIN BEGINS PRODUCTION

PY271646Y Sao Paulo Cadeia Verde Amarela in Portuguese 1000 GMT 27 Jan 78 PY

[Text] PETROBRAS has just announced that oil was discovered in the first oil well drilled to determine the extent of the (Poucolo) field in the Campos Basin. The first production estimate is for 3,749 bbls per day, likely to go up to 9,000 bbls per day. Up until now this field had been considered a small pocket in the Campos Basin capable of yielding 105 million barrels with only 30 percent recovery.

BRIEFS

ARMY COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR APPOINTED--Gen Jofre Sampaio was sworn in as the new army communications director on 16 January. [Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 17 Jan 78 p 4 PY]

NEW 2D MILITARY REGION COMMANDER--Gen Dilermando Gomes Monteiro, commander of the Second Army, has sworn in Gen Henrique Beckmann Filho as commander of the Second Army Division in Sao Paulo. [Sao Paulo Cadeia Verde Amarela in Portuguese 1000 GMT 18 Jan 78 PY]

NEW MILITARY RESEARCH OFFICIAL--Gen Ernani Ayrosa took over the post of deputy chief of the Army Research and Training Department. Gen Jose Maria de Andrada Serpa, chief of the same department, was present at the ceremony which took place at the urban area military headquarters. [Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 26 Jan 78 p 2 PY]

FORMER NAVY MINISTER DIES--Adm Pedro Paulo Araujo, 75, who was navy minister during the Goulart government, was buried yesterday in the Sao Joao Batista Cemetery in Rio de Janeiro. He was the first person to have his political rights cancelled by a revolutionary act. [Sao Paulo Cadeia Verde Amarela in Portuguese 1000 GMT 24 Jan 78 PY]

SECOND PINOCHET-VIDELA MEETING MAY BE 6 FEBRUARY

PY271252Y Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 0930 GMT 27 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Reports from Buenos Aires state that the second meeting between Presidents Jorge Rafael Videla and Augusto Pinochet to discuss subjects regarding border issues will take place on 6 February in the Chilean city of Puerto Montt. Asked about this fact, Chilean and Argentine Foreign Ministry officials stated that there is no official decision so far.

ARGENTINA 'REBELS AGAINST WORLD,' SAYS COMMENTATOR

PY261652Y Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 0930 GMT 26 Jan 78 PY

[Commentary by (Alicia Oliva)]

[Excerpts] The Argentine Military Government, disregarding its nation's honor and becoming judge of its own cause, finally decided to reject the decision of the British Arbitration Court regarding the 100-year-old dispute over the Beagle Channel. This completely improper attitude disregards the guidelines established by international law and places Argentina outside the norms which regulate relations between nations.

By assuming the responsibility of rejecting the court's decision, Argentina rebels against the world. The Argentine Government bases its decision on various errors which the arbitration court reportedly made. According to Argentina the five jurists of the international court, who studied the claims and references submitted by the parties involved, distorted the Argentine claim and announced decisions on issues (?outside their responsibility). Argentina attributes to the international court errors of a historical, geographical and political nature. In doing all this, our neighbors not only question the court's decision but also the final decision of Elizabeth II, disclosed in May, 1977, which recognized Chilean sovereignty over the Picton, Lenox and Nueva islands located south of the Beagle Channel.

These offenses to the British sovereign and to the court are quite serious and will undoubtedly result in declarations by both.

The letter delivered by Argentine Foreign Minister Oscar Montes to our ambassador in Buenos Aires, Rene Rojas Galdames, in which the official Argentine decision is disclosed, proposes bilateral negotiations to solve all the jurisdictional disputes between the two countries. It notes that this is the best path to solve any issue, and as proof of this it mentions the recent presidential summit between Presidents Pinochet and Videla in Mendoza. Moreover, it supposes that Chile attended these meetings with the exclusive aim of achieving an agreement on the demarcation of maritime space in the southern region in accordance with present sea rights.

All this, however, has nothing to do with the Beagle decision, because there is a series of treaties and commitments signed by the two nations supporting this decision. These treaties and commitments are what established the definitive and unappealable nature of the arbitration decision [words indistinct] of its fulfillment to the honor of the nations involved.

Are all these facts invalid for Argentine authorities? Argentina is now holding negotiations with Brazil over the exploitation of the Parana River and has a very old dispute with the United Kingdom regarding the Falkland or Malvinas Islands, as they are also called.

But will Argentina be able to achieve any settlement with these countries in its current unsettled situation?

In its notification to the Chilean Government regarding its decision to reject the Beagle decision, Argentine authorities announced that they will not recognize the validity of any titles invoked by Chile on the basis of this decision to advocate sovereignty over any territory or maritime area.

But what right does Argentine have to recognize or not recognize the validity of a Chilean island? Argentina freely adopted the decision to choose an arbitration court and give that court the authority to recognize or deny Chilean rights in this region.

The court, through the powers granted to it by the two parties, concluded that not only do the Lennox, Picton and Nueva islands belong to Chile, but also all the islands, islets and rocks located south of the Beagle Channel down to Cape Horn--that is the [name indistinct] and Barnevelt Islands among others are undoubtedly Chilean and are not subject to any negotiation.

With the official Argentine rejection of the British arbitration, everything starts again. The international court and the UK Government must issue a declaration. The possibility that the United Kingdom will break diplomatic relations with Argentina is not small, since this is what the United Kingdom did when it was arbitrator in a dispute between Peru and Bolivia and the Bolivian Government rejected the decision.

Chile will issue its answer today, and it was learned that it will do so in quite harsh terms.

SITUATION FOLLOWING ARGENTINE REJECTION STUDIED

PY271808Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1505 GMT 27 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 27 Jan--Chilean President Gen Augusto Pinochet and the generals and admirals of the Chilean Armed Forces have analyzed the future implications of Argentina's declaration nullifying the arbitration decision concerning the Beagle Channel, which was handed down by the British Crown. The chief of state also met today with Foreign Minister Vice Adm Patricio Carvajal and with Julio Philippi, the legal expert who has assumed Chile's defense in this matter.

No official information was released concerning what was discussed during the two meetings. Nevertheless, the local press does not rule out that the future situation following Argentina's rejection is being analyzed.

Meanwhile, the Chilean Foreign Ministry handed the Chilean declaration, which rejects Argentina's position, to all ambassadors accredited to Santiago. A copy of the letter addressed to Argentine Ambassador Hugo Mario Miatello was also handed to the ambassadors.

According to a local agency, complete information was also sent to the Chilean court and to Chilean ambassadors abroad so they can report Chile's legal position regarding the disagreement.

COMMENTATOR VIEWS DANGERS FROM SATELLITE

PY261237Y Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 0930 GMT 26 Jan 78 PY

[Commentary by (Luis Marchand)]

[Text] Almost all scientists, politicians and diplomats throughout the Western world are studying disturbing reports after one of the Soviet's ultrasecret Cosmos satellites was destroyed. Its number is 954.

True, this is not the first time that either a U.S. or Soviet satellite has entered the earth's atmosphere and burned, producing a large torch seen from many parts of the planet, and then had its ashes fall to the surface without major problems.

What is concerning about this issue is that this satellite was propelled by nuclear energy. It belongs to the series of so-called military satellites and it was recently put in space. The Soviets detected a fault in the satellite on 6 January, but they reported this fact to the United States and European nations only when the remains of the satellite began to burn during its reentry into the atmosphere.

Many experts say that the impressive amount of enriched uranium in the satellite probably caused a bright nuclear explosion in the atmosphere whose contaminating effects will stay in space for many years.

The prestigious FRG (?Bochun) Observatory reported that the satellite left an enormous cloud of radioactive gases in the upper atmosphere, approximately 350 km long, something like a big cloud covering from Santiago to Linares.

Meanwhile, the U.S. (?U-2) planes, which fly over 20 km high, are flying over Canadian airspace and getting air samples to analyze. No trace of radioactivity has been found for the time being, nor is there any change in the contamination level in the area. Everything [word indistinct] the situation and many theories on the cause of the phenomenon are being bandied about.

The Soviets, who are normally quite reserved in their comments on the Soviet space program, are now saying that the fault was caused by a decrease in pressure discovered on 6 January, probably from the impact of a meteorite, since the Soyuz 6 cosmonauts who are in space reported that their craft has signs of such an impact. The Soviets are also weighing another theory which has a lot of science fiction in it: that the Cosmos satellite No 954 was shot down by another satellite, perhaps an U.S. satellite, thus beginning the feared war of the future, the war of the galaxies.

There is much fantasy in all of this, but the worst thing is that everything needed for a possible space war is already in space, orbiting the earth.

Another concern is the number of nuclear satellites the USSR has in orbit. Washington believes that there are approximately 10 satellites that they know about. Since each device poses various possibilities of danger, and since there are many satellites in orbit, there is great concern about this subject of space research. Let us hope Moscow provides every detail of this milestone which marks man's adventure beyond his planet.

COLUMNIST ASSESSES CARTER ADMINISTRATION RECORD

PA272000Y Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 22 Jan 78 p 5 PA

["Rincon del Mundo" column: "Jimmy, the Liberal"]

[Text] A year ago, the U.S. presidency was assumed by an illustrious unknown: James Earl Carter

Through an amazing campaign for the nomination, Carter became a rare political phenomenon overnight, which allowed him to become the world's leading citizen.

Launching him toward stardom, his country's propaganda apparatus idolized the Southern farmer, depicting him as the prototype of the average U.S. citizen, profoundly religious and with faith in personal possibilities unknown to even Carter himself. The era of President Jimmy was born in the United States. For the first time, U.S. citizens can refer to their president in the diminutive, the diminutive involving no disparaging connotation, however, but one of affection.

If there is one thing that must be credited to Jimmy Carter, it is the fact that he has restored his fellow citizens' confidence in their authorities. This work had already been started by his predecessor Gerald Ford. However, having attained this intangible goal, Carter's compatriots expect him to begin governing seriously.

His efforts have not been very successful. This does not mean that he has performed badly. His country has not achieved acceptable economic growth indexes. He has recognized this fact. Now, he is going to resort to an "income and salaries" economic policy. His relationship with Congress has not been good, partly because of his congressional inexperience. He has been bold in the area of foreign relations. The Panama Canal and the Middle East are examples. His human rights banner gave rise to great hopes and expectations, but he has allowed the communists to blackmail him with the signing of a new treaty for the limitation of strategic arms. His opening toward Cuba has been fraught with ups and downs. He has sinned in Africa by omission.

This small balance may be acceptable, but not desirable. EL TIEMPO's editorial writer was right when he described Carter as "simply a true liberal."

FORMER SECURITY CHIEF SENTENCED TO PRISON

PA272141Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2041 GMT 26 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Bogota, 27 Jan (AFP)--Reliable sources reported here today that Gen Jorge Ordonez, a former chief of the intelligence services, has been sentenced to 5 years in prison for embezzlement and misrepresentation.

According to the RCN radio network, the sentence, which was handed down by the penal court of the Supreme Court of Justice, will be announced next week. Ordonez, who was subjected to a lengthy trial, held the post of chief of the Administrative Department of Security during the administration of Conservative President Misael Pastrana (1970-71).

PDC DISCUSSES STATUS OF DETAINED LABOR LEADERS

PY191920Y Asuncion HOY in Spanish 19 Jan 78 p 16 PY

[Text] During a meeting recently held by the national board of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC], several issues were discussed, particularly the status of union leaders who were detained in Ypacarai. Among them were several PDC members who had high responsibilities within the PDC, such as Emigdio Colman Nunez, Rodolfo Romero, Fulgencio Bareiro Rodas, Florencio Riveros and Quirino Hermosa.

During the meeting it was reasserted that the detention of these leaders was very unjust, since they were willing to help their brothers through training rural and urban union leaders.

The PDC stated that "union leader Rodolfo Romero honors the country by being founder director of the institute for Training Union Leaders in the Southern Cone [INCASUR], under the World Confederation of Labor, headquartered in Brussels, Belgium, which includes workers with Christian and democratic positions.

MONTANARO: GOVERNMENT MAY RESURRECT URBAN GUARD

PY191643Y Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 19 Jan 78 p 21 PY

[Text] The presidents of the local Colorado Party sections attended a briefing at the Police Investigations Department about the subversive group which was disrupted on 12 January by the raid on a house in the Capitalizador neighborhood.

The meeting was headed by Interior Minister Sabino A. Montanaro, who stated that "everyone present is a sentry for peace, and that, therefore, the security of the government is in the hands of 800,000 party members."

The minister declared that "the urban guard [guardia urbana] could be reestablished at any time to stop subversive efforts of this type."

Pastor Coronel, chief of investigations, gave details of the extremist group, their plans and scheduled actions in Paraguay. He showed the items seized from the members of the 1 March organization, which include wigs, eyeglasses, bombs, various caliber weapons, ammunition, plans showing vital points in the country, documents, books, photographs, folders, records, house plans, license plates, lists of high army police officers, makeup, plastic masks and many stolen and faked identity cards.

In the name of the presidents of the party sections, Julio Martinez stated that each of them would firmly take the responsibility of being "a sentry for peace."

Pastor Coronel mentioned that the main goal of the workers detained in Ypacarai in December, 1977, was to reorganize the agrarian leagues and form farmers into unions. He also made reference to human rights when he recalled police casualties and asked, "Aren't policemen human beings?"

The Investigations Department also reported that Jose Felix Bog[illegible] Tabacman is wanted on accusations of being a dangerous member of the extreme left. According to the police, Jose Felix operates as a subversive under the alias "Pedro" or "Javier."

SOLUTION REACHED TO 51-DAY SIDERPERU STRIKE

PY271700Y Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Jan 78 PY

[Text] The workers of the Peruvian State Iron and Steel Enterprises [SIDERPERU] reached agreement with the authorities yesterday and decided to return to work today at (?1300) after a 51-day strike. A statement signed by representatives of the enterprises' workers and employees unions with Industry, Commerce, Tourism and Integration Ministry officials, indicates that an agreement was reached yesterday at 1550.

A spokesman for the workers indicated that the final agreement was achieved through the good will and understanding of the sector's minister, Gen Gaston Ibanez O'Brien. It has been agreed that SIDERPERU, as of 1 January, 1978, will grant its workers a general salary increase of 3,500 soles per month or 117 soles per day which will be added to their basic salaries. This is due to the fact that the automatic readjustment of salaries due to rises in the cost of living [COL] which they were enjoying was suspended by Law No 21,351 of 28 July, 1976. The same will apply to those workers who did not receive any of the general salary increases which were granted to the rest of the enterprises' workers.

It has been agreed that as of 1 July, 1977, the application of the automatic readjustment of salaries due to rises in the COL will be reestablished in accordance with the collective labor agreements signed by SIDERPERU and its unions and by mandate of Laws Nos 21,866 and 21,899.

On the other hand, for the period between 1 July, 1977, and 31 December, 1977, SIDERPERU has established, only in the case of this situation, the sum of 3,500 soles for each (?man) to be charged to the profits assigned to the company in 1977. In case this sum is not covered, the balance will be paid in December, 1978.

SIDERPERU will reestablish the joint evaluation commissions in accordance with the collective labor agreements in order to study the leveling [of salaries] of the workers who are in the lowest categories in the quickest possible time. The results will be implemented as soon as the corresponding legal regulations permit. In case of legal regulations to the contrary, the sector's ministry will adopt the necessary measures for their modification.

Regarding the transfer of SIDERPERU'S workers, the enterprise will strictly comply with the collective labor agreements currently in force. It will order the prior training of personnel where it deems it to be necessary and according to which department the worker is transferred to. These transfers will not impair salary level or grade level.

Regarding the rehiring of workers who have been fired, three procedures will be followed: regarding the dossiers concerning rehiring which have been submitted to the Industry Ministry in accordance with Law No 18,471, the Industry Ministry will make the best effort to implement decisions about them.

Regarding the rehiring of workers fired in accordance with Decree Nos 010 and 011, a commission will be created to study each case and analyze the causes [word indistinct] and if (?unjust) causes are found the worker will be rehired and will be paid his salary from the day he was fired. The commission will have 60 days to complete its studies and will submit a report to the Labor Ministry to verify that it has not been studying some of the same cases.

The firing of workers because of the strike which began on 6 December will be annulled. The parties also agreed that the days which have not been worked during the strike will not affect the vacation period. The parties asserted that the workers will guarantee reciprocal harmony and respect for SIDERPERU and will intensify their efforts to recover the enterprise's loss in production, with the purpose of placing it at an optimum level of productivity for the benefit of the country in general.

The statement contains 15 points and replaces a preliminary one signed 2 days ago to which minor objections were made on some points yesterday by the general assembly of workers.

The negotiating parties were headed by (Carlos Maza Rodriguez), representing the Industry Ministry, and (Rafael Velazquez Reinschiffo) and (Francisco Vazquez Leon), representing the employees and workers unions of the steel plant.

HAYA DE LA TORRE 'TACITLY' ACCEPTS PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION

PA291922Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1648 GMT 29 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 29 Jan (AFP)--Aprista Party leader Victor Haya de la Torre tacitly accepted the presidential nomination for the 1980 elections in a speech last night at a meeting in the city of Piura in the northern party of Peru. According to press reports, the political leader reiterated his faith in the nation's economic recovery and called on the youth to follow it, adding that "when you say Haya for president, I am here with you." He explained that APRA will be present at next June's constituent elections to ensure that the assembly will be sovereign and that the new political charter will include the Aprist thesis of a two-chamber congress, one economic and the other political.

In his 55-minute address, he said that to solve the nation's economic crisis it is necessary to ensure the united action of all Peruvians. He added, however, that it will be necessary to point out the causes that created it and those responsible. Haya de la Torre explained that the crisis has an internal origin, exacerbated by the poor economic policy implemented by the military regime since 1968.

Concluding, he rejected any foreign methods to solve the nation's problems, adding that U.S. and Soviet capitalism can readjust themselves, but "we have to pay for the broken dishes." [sentence as received]

MINISTER PRAISES PEASANTS' RESPONSE TO AUSTERITY

PY281341Y Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Agriculture and Nutrition Minister Luis Arbulu Ibanez asserted that the Peruvian peasant class is rising to the challenge of austerity, beating production and productivity statistics and contributing to the consolidation of the agrarian reform process. Arbulu Ibanez made these remarks during a speech when he handed over 15 trucks donated by the Federal Republic of Germany to agrarian production cooperatives.

The agriculture minister also said that the political problems have been successfully overcome and that the only thing they [not identified] have achieved is to distort the reform process.

He also said that the government has declared 1978 the year of austerity to make all Peruvians understand that this means they should work more to produce more.

POPULAR CHRISTIAN PARTY TO SEEK ELECTION REGISTRATION

PA2803577 Paris AFP in Spanish 0313 GMT 28 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 27 Jan (AFP)--The Popular Christian Party [PPC], which separated from Christian Democracy some years ago, today proposed the gradual denationalization of the Peruvian economy in order to overcome the country's "grave crisis." The PPC, whose most prominent leader is Luis Bedoya, former mayor of Lima, also announced that on Tuesday it will register with the National Elections Jury to participate in the constituent elections to be held in June.

Noting that the international economic crisis has had an effect on Peru, the rightist-leaning PPC said that domestic factors are mainly to blame for the Peruvian crisis that is characterized by inflation and recession. It added that those factors were "the excessive growth of public expenditures, the decrease of private investment and departure of capital since 1971, the disorderly increase of the foreign debt and the uncontrolled release of money by the central bank."

In order to overcome the crisis which has been marked by an inflation rate of 10 percent from June, 1975, to December, 1977, the PPC recommended the renegotiation of the foreign debt with creditors on both sides of the iron curtain.

In conclusion, it asked for "a bold rectification of economic policy" which will mean the reorganization of the state structure, promotion of private enterprise and the revision of the law on industries and all those laws that have placed commerce under state control.

MAY, 1977, BAN ON ANCHOVY FISHING TO BE CONTINUED

PY271649Y Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Jan 78 PY

[Text] The ban on anchovy fishing all along our coast which was imposed on 6 May, 1977, will continue until it is scientifically viable to renew fishing. This information is contained in the weekly bulletin published by the public relations office of the Fishery Ministry. Anchovies are used mainly for the production of fishmeal and fish oil.

BRIEFS

REFINING PLANT TO EXPAND--The expansion plan for the Copper Circuit [circuito de cobre], the foundry and the refinery of CENTROMIN--Peru's La Orolla metallurgic complex has been estimated at $140 million. With the object of carrying out a basic engineering study for this plan, an agreement will be signed today between CENTROMIN-Peru and an association of enterprises from Great Britain and Canada. The plan foresees an increase in the output of the copper circuit from 58,000 to 73,000 metric tons of refined copper per year. [Text] [Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Jan 78 PY]

ARMY APPOINTMENT--Gen Pedro Richter Prada, army chiel of staff, yesterday installed Brig Gen Jose Guabloche Rodriguez as deputy chief of staff. Guabloche was former commander of the 8th Infantry Division. [Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Jan 78 PY]

BRAZILIAN PRESIDENT GEISEL LEAVES AFTER STATE VISIT

PY271445Y [Editorial report PY] Montevideo Radio el Espectador Network in Spanish at 1400 GMT 27 January begins live coverage of the departure of Brazilian President Ernesto Geisel after a 3-day visit to Uruguay. The coverage begins at a downtown Montevideo hotel and accompanies Geisel and Uruguayan President Mendes to the airport, where after a ceremonial inspection of troops and a 21-gun salute, President Geisel and his delegation leave by plane at 1440 GMT. There are no speeches.

Communique, Agreements Reported

PY271933Y Montevideo Cadena de Oro Del Interior in Spanish 1500 GMT 27 Jan 78 PY

[Excerpt] The disclosure of a joint communique outlining the activities of the two presidents, an additional meeting between the presidents, the signing of an agreement and the ratification of others were the last official acts to take place this morning just before President Ernesto Geisel ended his visit to our country, which was hosted by President Aparicio Mendez and which lasted almost 50 hours. In a ceremony which took place at the government house, the two leaders emphasized the importance of the projects being undertaken in the Merin Lake and Yaguaron River basins. During the ceremony, which was attended by members of the Uruguayan cabinet, military and civilian officials, and the Brazilian Committee, the binational Committee for the Development of the Merin Lake Basin presented the basic project document for hydroelectric exploitation of Paso Centurion, the Paso Talavera Dam, and the irrigation system to the presidents. Foreign Ministers Alejandro Rovira and Antonio Azeredo da Silveira proceeded to ratify the cooperation treaty for the exploitation of the natural resources and development of the Merin Lake Basin and the protocol concerning the expoloitation of the Yaguaron River water resources. Both documents had been signed during the visit made last June to Brazil by the Uruguayan president. The two foreign ministers also signed the social security agreement, which, for retirement purposes, recognizes the years a Uruguayan may have spent working in Brazil, and vice versa.

Finally, another agreement was ratified authorizing amateur radio operators with licenses in one of the two countries to operate their stations in the other country. The presidents had first held another private meeting, which lasted 25 minutes and was held in President Mendez' government house office. As President Geisel was bidding farewell to President Mendez, the Uruguayan Foreign Ministry disclosed the joint communique concerning the presidents' activities during this encounter.

The communique says the presidents discussed world issues and conducted a meticulous analysis of Uruguayan-Brazilian relations. It states that the two foreign ministers held fruitful talks concerning subjects of mutual interest. They attended the signing of the reciprocal participation agreement for international (?projects). President Geisel said he had decided to grant financing for equipment and [word indistinct] which correspond to Uruguay's share in the Yaguaron River Basin projects. He also announced that his government had taken the necessary measures to build an access road to the Paso Centurion construction site. President Mendez said a similar road would be built on the Uruguayan side.

They stated that the construction of the Portland cement factory in [name indistinct] is in the interest of the Merin Lake Basin's development. With respect to this, it was agreed that Brazil would finance the purchase of Brazilian equipment and services for this project. They decided that the trade expansion committees should meet sometime during the next 3 months to increase and diversify present binational commercial trends. They expressed their satisfaction with the progress of the Palmar hydroelectric dam construction, and agreed to create a joint study commission to analyze ways to increase cooperation in the fishing industry. The two presidents agreed to increase their efforts to encourage the development of more tourist exchange, and to increase and perfect understandings regarding automotive industry trade. Finally, they emphasized the importance of exchanging electricity for the benefit of border towns and regions. The presidents of Uruguay and Brazil agreed on the importance of the projects for sharing the natural resources of the Merin Lake and Yaguaron River Basin, which were being included in the agreement signed this morning.

President Mendez did not hesitate to call the work to be carried out by the two nations in the border region unique in the world. President Geisel said that Uruguay and Brazil pursue the common goals of increasing cooperation based on mutual respect. Radio Espectador and Radio Sport were present at the ceremony held this morning in the Red Room of the government house, and recorded the principal passage of the remarks made by both presidents. At one point in his speech the Uruguayan president said: [begin recording]

We have just exchanged the documents ratifying the Brasilia agreements. It is now in the hands of the joint technical commission to carry out these projects, which I do not hesitate to call unique in the world. The areas of our country which will benefit from the irrigation projects will form an international center for agroindustrial production, an active and tangible monument to our fraternity. It will be a focal point for this tumultuous world and will demonstrate what can be done through work and understanding. We will not see the conclusion of much of what has been done during the various stages of this great project, but we do know they will become reality. It is true that not everyone who plants a seed can taste its fruit. It is also true that man's greatest mission is to sow seeds. [end recording]

These were the words of Uruguayan President Aparicio Mendez. His Brazilian counterpart responded immediately. During his speech General Geisel said: [begin recording]

During this meeting, our governments have discussed economic and trade opportunities, such as ways to create and develop support and incentive measures for the nation's active sectors to guide them in areas of mutual interest. In view of these premises, Brazil and Uruguay are realistically working toward the common goal of increased mutual cooperation in all sectors of the nation and a healthy policy of integration based on mutual respect with consideration for each country's idiosyncrasies. As President Mendez has just said, the result of this line of action is the undertaking of various measures at the national and regional level demonstrating the good judgment of the decisions taken by our governments. [end recording]

GOVERNMENT DENIES REPORT ON ASYLUM INCIDENT IN HAVANA

PA291625Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1516 GMT 29 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Caracas, 29 Jan--The Venezuelan Government has denied a report from Havana according to which a group of people attempted to take asylum in the Venezuelan Embassy in Cuba, it was announced here today. A news dispatch stated yesterday that several persons attempted to take asylum in the Venezuelan Embassy in Havana, but that they had been stopped by officers of the Revolutionary National Police. The Venezuelan Ministry of Information and Tourism refuted the report and pointed out that the diplomatic mission in Havana had informed the government that it had no knowledge of anyone attempting to take asylum.

Cubans' Presence Confirmed

PA300118Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0037 GMT 30 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Caracas, 29 Jan (AFP)--The Venezuelan Information and Tourism Ministry tonight reported that two Cubans have sought asylum at the Venezuelan Embassy in Havana.

The ministry announced that "on the evening of 28 January, the Foreign Relations Ministry was told that Cuban citizens Felipe Hernandez Pallares and Jose Manuel Suarez Galarraga had entered the Venezuelan Embassy asking for asylum."

In a brief communique the ministry said that the Venezuelan Embassy in Cuba has started "the process of determining the status of the two citizens at present in our diplomatic residence."

Information Minister Diego Arria had previously denied the report of the request for asylum.

ELECTORAL COUNCIL ANNOUNCES NEW POLITICAL PARTY

PA261917Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 0300 GMT 26 Jan 78 PA

[Text] The Superior Electoral Council has announced that the Labor Movement Party [Partido del Movimiento del Trabajo] has been granted the status of a political party. Deputy Eloy Graterol Parra, a labor leader and member of the Confederation of Workers of Venezuela [CTV], is the Labor Movement Party's national coordinator and indisputable leader. Carlos Delgado Chaveyin, Superior Electoral Council president, announced that after meeting all requirements established in the laws on political parties, public meetings and demonstrations, the Labor Movement Party was legally granted the status of a political party.

ELECTORAL COUNCIL RELEASES POLITICAL PARTIES' LIST

PA271704Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 27 Jan 78 PA

[Text] The Superior Electoral Council has announced that a total of 13 national parties and 9 regional parties have been officially registered.

The national parties are: Democratic Action, Social Christian Party, People's Electoral Movement, Nationalist Civic Crusade, Democratic Republican Union, Popular Democratic Force, Independents for Community Development, National Opinion Party, National Unity Front, Movement of the Revolutionary Left, Labor Movement Party, Movement to Socialism and the Communist Party of Venezuela.

The regional parties are: Socialist Party, legalized in the states of Cojedes, Merida, Nueva Esparta and Trujillo; Communist Unitarian Vanguard, legalized in the states of Bolivar, Miranda and in the federal territories of Amazonas and Delta Amacuro; Venezuelan Popular Democracy, legalized in the states of Apure, Tachira and in the federal territory Amazonas; Labor Movement Party, legalized in the states of Apure, Aragua, Barinas, Monagas, Nueva Esparta, Portuguesa, Yaracuy and in the federal territory Delta Amacuro; Morera (not further indentified) in Falcon State and federal territory Delta Amacuro; and New Order in the federal territory Delta Amacuro.

Meanwhile, the Revolutionary Action Groups, Socialist League and Emancipating Force have filed their request for legalization at the Superior Electoral Council, which estimates that at least 30 political organizations will participate in the next elections.

SEARCHES FOR FUGITIVE REBEL GROUPS CONTINUE

PA241819Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 24 Jan 78 PA

[Text] An arms cache found in underground caves in rural areas of Monagas and Anzoategui states reportedly belong to fugitive rebel groups. It has also been reported that some of the weapons were stolen from a farm belonging to former Monagas State Governor Rafael Ben Martin Marquez (Anez). The weapons were stashed away along with large amounts of food and a powerful transmitting system, including four walkie-talkies. The system can cover an area of more than 30 km.

The authorities reported that over 10 people have been arrested for alleged involvement with the guerrillas. They have all been arranged before military courts.

The security corps are trying to unearth the bodies of two farmhands who were reportedly executed by guerrillas. The work is being conducted in the mountains in western Monagas. The report was supplied by a top-ranking police source.

In the meantime, the army and security corps are continuing the search for the fugitive rebel groups. An official spokesman gave assurances that the guerrillas have been dealt heavy blows and find themselves at a loss of what to do to protect themselves from the Monagas II Operation.

BRIEFS

REGULATIONS ON IMPORTED VEHICLES--Finance Minister Jose Luis Silva Luongo has announced that the government has decided to prohibit the importation of vehicles that are not assembled in the country. He said that the measure is to place the vehicles similar to the ones assembled in Venezuela under a rigorous control. He added that the Executive Branch has established a 120 percent ad valorem tax on the vehicles that are imported. He said that according to this measure, luxury vehicles manufactured abroad will not be permitted into the country. [Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 4 Jan 78 PA]

REPORTAGE ON VISIT OF CUBAN FOREIGN MINISTER MALMIERCA

Malmierca, Roel at Joint Meeting

FL271342Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 27 Jan 78 FL

[Text] In Mexico City the foreign ministers of Cuba and Mexico, Isidoro Malmierca and Santiago Roel, have presided at the inauguration of the first meeting of the Inter-Governmental Mixed Commission on cooperation between the two countries. The commission will assess the development of bilateral relations on economic and scientific-technical cooperation.

Yesterday in statements to the press, Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca stated that Cuba does not have the slightest interest in establishing relations with the OAS. After pointing out that Cuba believes the OAS to be against the interests of Latin American peoples, Malmierca called for seeking other paths for relations between states which can serve as a channel and impetus for continental integration.

Ministers Call for Expanded Relations

PA272005Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 1240 GMT 27 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 26 Jan (EFE)--Cuban Minister of Foreign Relations Isidoro Malmierca urged here today that the most broad and diverse fields of cooperation be promoted between Mexico and Cuba.

The Cuban foreign minister made his appeal this morning when, along with his Mexican counterpart Santiago Roel, he inaugurated the first meeting of the Mexico-Cuba Inter-Governmental Commission. The meeting is being held to lay the groundwork for expanding relations between the two countries. In addition, political, economic, cultural, educational and industrial matters, as well as technical cooperation will be discussed.

On swearing in the commission, Roel noted the ties of friendship which link the two countries and the broad possibilities that exist for cooperation between Mexico and Cuba in various areas.

For his part, Malmierca mentioned the projects which Mexico and Cuba can carry out jointly. The two countries have had cooperation agreements for almost 2 years in the areas of sugar, iron and steel, fishing and culture. These agreements, although signed, were never implemented. In view of this, the Mexican foreign minister said that implementation may possibily be preceded by a complete review of each of the agreements signed by the two countries. Santiago Roel said that this possibility was discussed with Foreign Minister Malmierca and other Cuban officials, and has the approval of Presidents Fidel Castro and Jose Lopez-Portillo.

The first thing to be done, the Mexican foreign minister said, is to make an inventory of what has been done with Cuba and in what sectors mutual exchange can be expanded. He cited areas such as fishing, chemistry, commerce, hydrocarbons; in general, areas involving products which the Cubans have or those which Mexicans can offer.

Mexico and Cuba trade some $60 million in goods yearly, with a deficit of 7 to 1 against Cuba.

The first Mexico-Cuba session will end tomorrow, Friday, at which time the foreign ministers of the two countries will report on the agreements reached.

Apart from initiating the Intergovernmental Commission's meeting, the purpose of Foreign Minister Malmierca's visit to Mexico is to study the possibility of scheduling a meeting of the heads of state of Caribbean coastal nations here in the near future. It is believed that this Caribbean summit would deal with the issue of independence for the British colony of Belize.

Malmierca, who will return to Cuba on Sunday, met this afternoon with President Jose Lopez-Portillo. The subjects discussed were not made public.

Cuban Military Aid to Panama

PA171854Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 27 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Cuba would militarily support Panama if the people of that country needed to defend themselves against U.S. aggression, Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca said in Mexico City today. We will give aid to those governments which request it in order to struggle for independence and social justice, Malmierca added. The Cuban foreign minister is participating in the sessions of a mixed Mexico-Cuba commission here.

Further Report on Arms Aid

PA271911Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 1858 GMT 27 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 27 Jan (EFE)--Cuba would militarily support Panama if the people of that country were to request it to defend themselves from U.S. aggression, Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca said today.

"We will help those governments which request it to struggle for independence and social justice," added Malmierca, who is here participating in the sessions of a mixed Mexico-Cuba Commission. In this ideological framework, the Cuban foreign minister said that his country's troops will remain in Angola until the security of that country is guaranteed "against the racist armies of South Africa and Zaire." In addition, Malmierca said that Latin American integration "is a permanent desire of the Cuban revolution," but that much is needed for it to advance. He accused "U.S. imperialism" of being the main obstacle to this unity, since such integration would create a problem for the United States' plans for domination. Finally, Malmierca said that he views "with sadness" the presence of U.S. soldiers at Guantanamo Base and the possibility of an armed U.S. intervention in the Panama Canal.

Malmierca On U.S. Military in L.A.

PL272125Y Mexico City INFORMEX in Spanish to ANSA Buenos Aires 2108 GMT 27 Jan 78 PL

[Text] Mexico City, 27 Jan (ANSA-INFORMEX)--Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca, who is visiting here, has expressed concern over the growing U.S. military presence in Latin America. In statements to the press, Malmierca emphasized that the North American government prevents Latin American integration just as Jose Marti said, but the wishes for integration are present in all the fundamental documents of Cuban life.

Replying to a journalist's concern, the Cuban foreign minister stressed that "the Cuban soldiers will remain in Angola until the Angolan people and government consider their borders free of threats and incursions by South Africa and Zaire."

Regarding possible Cuban military assistance to Panama, Malmierca replied that it would be important to know the Panamanian viewpoint.

Elsewhere in his statements, the Cuban foreign minister announced that Cuban Prime Minister Fidel Castro wants to visit Mexico in the near future.

He denied, on the other hand, that there has been a cooling in Mexican-Cuban relations which he described as "very positive."

Ministers Stress Friendly Relations

FL272140Y Mexico City INFORMEX in Spanish to ANSA Buenos Aires 2112 GMT 27 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Mexico City, 27 Jan (ANSA-INFORMEX)--The Mexican and Cuban Foreign Ministers, Santiago Roel and Isidoro Malmierca, respectively, have stressed the need to adapt the treaties between the two countries to the existing new realities in the international field.

At the inauguration of the first meeting of the Mexico-Cuba Intergovernmental Mixed Commission, Roel recalled that Mexicans have always received Cuban support during difficult moments of their history. He insisted that relations between the two countries always have been friendly, orthodox, correct and without obstacles.

The Mexican foreign secretary also emphasized that "Mexico, in the face of the blockade by many countries, especially in Latin America, was the only one that disagreed with that unfair treatment of the sister republic of Cuba."

In the main part of his speech in reply to Roel, Malmierca said: "It must be said that Mexico was the place where the fighters for the independence of Cuba found a welcome that was more than friendly and warm, and this tradition--of which Jose Marti is one of the most obvious examples--continued after our people's 100 years of struggle."

Roel and Malmierca today will sign a joint statement.

Commission Meeting Ends

FL272259Y Mexico City INFORMEX in Spanish 2255 GMT 27 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Mexico City, 27 Jan (INFORMEX)--Foreign Relations Secretary Santiago Roel Garcia today closed the working sessions of the first meeting of the Mexico-Cuba Intergovernmental Mixed Commission held at the Foreign Secretariat Conference Hall.

The meeting was chaired by Roel and Cuban Foreign Minister Dr Isidoro Malmierca Peoli.

The distinguished visitor was accompanied by his wife, Haydee Diaz Santamaria; Ulises Estradea, second chief of the Communist Party of the Cuban Central Committee's America Department; Julio Imperatori, vice president of the Cuban National Bank; the Director of the Latin America and Caribbean Department and Juridicial Director of the Foreign Relations Ministry, Carlos Amat Fores and Olga Miranda Bravo, respectively; Octavio Castilla, director of the America Department of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation; Michael Vazquez, director for Latin American of the Foreign Ministry; and Mercedes Aguiar, official in the Cuban Foreign Ministry.

Lopez-Portillo Receives Malmierca

FL272207Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2135 GMT 27 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Mexican President Jose Lopez-Portillo has received Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca at the National Palace. During the meeting, President Lopez-Portillo and Foreign Minister Malmierca discussed various topics of interest concerning relations between Cuba and Mexico.

The Cuban foreign minister is making an official visit to Mexico at the invitation of his counterpart Santiago Roel. Following the meeting with the Mexican president, which was attended by the Mexican Foreign Secretary, Malmierca saw the Diego Rivera murals at the National Palace.

The Cuban minister emphasized his gratitude for the invitation to visit Mexico and the interest of the Mexican Government in trying to resolve the questions discussed during meetings in order to exapnd ties between Cuba and Mexico.

Malmierca declared in Mexico that Cuba is fulfilling the Marti idea of fighting for liberty wherever liberty is violated. Malmierca was speaking in the auditorium of the Mexican Foreign Relations Secretariat where Mexico's official tribute to Jose Marti was held on occasion of the 125th birth anniversary of Cuba's apostle on 28 January.

Our country is working to the extent of its possibilities and capabilities to offer cooperation and technical assistance to other nations of the world whose governments are trying to find adequate and just solutions to economic and social problems, Malmierca said. We are trying, he added, to advance, along with the Latin American and Caribbean nations, in order to make a reality of the aspirations of Simon Bolivar, Benito Juarez and Jose Marti to attain a worthy and longlasting fatherland.

Malmierca recalled that the aspirations of Simon Bolivar, Benito Juarez and Jose Marti for a worthy and longlasting peace are based on respect for the independence and sovereignty of peoples and their rights to self-determination.

For his part, Mexican Foreign Secretary Santiago Roel said Marti, who was continental more than a Cuban, made every Latin American people and nation feel like brothers with the spirit of liberty and independence which he always felt in his heart and rebel in the face of the social injustice.

During the tribute to the Cuba patriot, Mexican President Jose Lopez-Portillo asked the his country's foreign secretariat today pay a deeply felt homage to Jose Marti and, with him, he added, to all the Cubans who fought for [Cuban] independence, whose heroic feats are forerunners of other no less important revolutions which resound strongly in the heart of this, our America.

Cuba, Mexico Sign Joint Communique

FL291736Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 29 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Cuba and Mexico have reaffirmed their devotion to peace, the exclusion of violence in the solution of conflicts between countries and nonintervention in internal affairs, and their condemnation of colonialism and apartheid.

In a joint communique released yesterday in Mexico City, Foreign Secretary Santiago Roel expressed his government's condemnation of the economic and commercial blockade imposed on Cuba by the United States.

The Cuban-Mexican joint communique was signed at the end of the 2-day official visit by Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca on occasion of an intergovernmental meeting on economic, scientific and technological cooperation between the two countries.

The Cuban-Mexican joint communique expresses support for a new international economic order. In this regard, Cuba and Mexico emphasized their support for regional economic integration mechanisms.

Further Details on Communique

[1291905] Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 28 Jan 78 FL

[Excerpts] During his stay in Mexico from 25 to 27 January, Isidoro Malmierca conveyed to the Mexican Chief of State friendly and cordial greetings from Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Cuban Councils of State and Ministers. He also held talks with Mexican Foreign Secretary Santiago Roel, which were conducted in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding.

Within the framework of the meeting between Malmierca and Roel, a bilateral cooperation agreement was signed which from now on will govern the existing relations between Mexico and Cuba. It also was agreed to form a General Intergovernmental Mixed Commission chaired by the Mexican foreign secretary and Cuban foreign minister. The objectives of this commission include examination of results of the work by commissions and groups created by the agreements for cultural, educational, scientific, technological, economic and industrial cooperation.

During Malmierca's visit to Mexico, comprehensive talks also were held on various topics and it was agreed that the United Nations must be strengthened for being the only organization capable of maintaining a just and equitable peace. Other topics on the international situation also were discussed.

The communique as a result of Malmierca's visit to Mexico states that before returning home, Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca Peoli and the members of his delegation [illegible] sincere gratitude for the demonstrations of friendship and the warm welcome and attentions they received during their stay in Mexico.

Malmierca on Relations with U.S.

[2921289] Mexico City INFORMEX in Spanish to ANSA Buenos Aires 2110 GMT 28 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Mexico City, 28 Jan (ANSA-INFORMEX)--Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca, in statements to the morning paper EL DIA during his visit to this country, maintained that Cuban-North American relations will be normalized only on the basis of mutual respect and equality.

He also emphasized his country's solidarity with the struggle for independence of Puerto Rico. He added that the presence of Cuban troops in Angola is not a matter of negotiation with the United States. Malmierca stressed that the U.S. military presence in Guantanamo should be on the table of negotiations.

He recalled that 10 years ago Cuba was isolated from the other Latin American countries since, with the exception of Mexico, all the countries in the area broke relations with the Caribbean island. "But now," he said, "the diplomatic encirclement has been broken since we maintain relations with Panama, Peru, Colombia, Venezuela, Guyana, Jamaica, Trinidad-Tobago, Argentina and Canada." Malmierca emphasized that these relations will help Cuba break the economic blockade imposed by the United States.

$15 BILLION INVESTMENT IN OIL INDUSTRY PLANNED

PA272102Y Mexico City Radio Programas de Mexico in Spanish 1720 GMT 27 Jan 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] Mexico City--Mexico will invest $15 billion in its oil industry in the next 5 years, now that its oil reserves have been estimated at 120.6 billion barrels, the same amount or maybe more than in the Middle East.

Mexico is preparing a conference in which the most modern U.S. oil and petrochemical industry equipment will be displayed. Buyers from Mexico, Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru, Argentina and Brazil are expected to attend the conference.

Mexico's proven oil reserves are 16.6 billion barrels, but the estimated oil reserve, 120.6 billion barrels, is 10 times greater than the original estimates.

PEMEX SEEKS $800 MILLION CREDIT FROM WORLD BANKS

FL27155Y Mexico City INFORMEX in Spanish to ANSA Buenos Aires 2118 GMT 27 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Mexico City, 27 Jan (ANSA-INFORMEX)--Roberto Latapi Fox, representative in Mexico of the International Mexican Bank (INTERMEX), whose headquarters are in London, has announced that Mexican Petroleum (PEMEX) is negotiating an $800-million credit from international banks. He explained that the loan could come primarily from City Bank, Chase Manhattan Bank and Intermex, which already have scheduled a $270-million loan to Mexican private enterprise for February. Latari Fox said that PEMEX's requests for credit are viable since it has been possible to guarantee the strength of the Mexican peso.

U.S. REFUSAL TO ENRICH URANIUM REPORTED

FL282135Y Mexico City INFORMEX in Spanish to ANSA Buenos Aires 2113 GMT 28 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Mexico City, 28 Jan (ANSA-INFORMEX)--The United States has refused to enrich our country's uranium because of nuclear security reasons although Mexico has an extreme tradition of peaceful use of this material. This information has been furnished by Patrimony and Industrial Development Secretary Jose Andres de Oteyza who indicated that the problem was discussed with U.S. Vice President Walter Mondale, whose visit here ended late last week.

AGRICULTURE SECRETARIES SIGN COOPERATION PACT

FL272149Y Mexico City INFORMEX in Spanish to ANSA Buenos Aires 2116 GMT 27 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Mexico City, 27 Jan (ANSA-INFORMEX)--The Mexican and U.S. Secretaries of Agriculture, Francisco Merino Rabago and Robert S. Bergland, respectively, have signed new cooperation agreements between the two countries at a ceremony held in Culiacan, Sinaloa State (1,300 kilometers northwest of here).

It was especially agreed to give greater continuity to preventive programs for the control and eradication of plagues and diseases that affect the agricultural economy.

Important steps also were taken so that Mexico can take advantage of the most modern methods for the evaluation of crops (via satellite) and of specific lands that can be used for farming.

Through satellites, Merino Rabago said, "our country can have reliable data available which precisely measure the advances of agricultural plans being developed in 16 million hectares with 130 different crops."

The United States decided to cooperate with Mexico to eradicate the plague called "Mediterranean fly" which has caused much damage, especially in neighboring Guatemala.

At the end of the meeting, Merino Rabago and Bergland agreed to meet at least once a year to control the development of jointly outlined plans.

FOREIGN SECRETARY DENIES PLAN TO DIVIDE BELIZE

PA2720046Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1619 GMT 27 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 27 Jan (AFP)--Santiago Roel, Mexican foreign relations secretary, today denied here that there is an agreement to divide Belize's territory into three parts.

Roel described as false a report published by a London daily saying that one part of Belize's territory will be given to Guatemala, another to Mexico and a third will form an independent nation.

Mexico's position on Belize continues to be based on self-determination, Roel said. He added that Mexico will abide by any decisions adopted by the United Nations on that territory.

SUBURBAN RAILROAD CONSTRUCTION POSTPONED

FL2821380Y Mexico City INFORMEX in Spanish to ANSA Buenos Aires 2116 GMT 28 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Mexico City, 28 Jan (ANSA-INFORMEX)--Communications and Transport Secretary Emilio Mujica Montoya has announced that the government has decided to postpone indefinitely the construction of the Mexico City suburban railroad for financing reasons. The decision is important to various Japanese banks which were willing to lend huge sums of money for the project.

MRS LOPEZ-PORTILLO TO VISIT SANTO DOMINGO 5 FEB

FL2621300Y Mexico City INFORMEX in Spanish 2125 GMT 26 Jan 78 FL

[Excerpt] Santo Domingo, 26 Jan (INFORMEX)--The Dominican Foreign Secretariat announced here today that Mrs Carmen Romano de Lopez-Portillo, wife of the Mexican President, will make an official visit. Mrs Lopez-Portillo will spend 4 days here beginning on 5 February.

A number of (?social), charitable and cultural activities will be staged during her visit and she will meet with President Joaquin Balaguer and government officials.

STATION SAYS U.S. RESPONSIBLE FOR NICARAGUAN CRISIS

PA290247Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 0010 GMT 29 Jan 78 PA

[Text] U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Latin American Affairs Terence Todman said today that the U.S. Government will stay out of the political crisis in Nicaragua.

To this statement it may be added that the U.S. Government is responsible for what is happening now in Nicaragua because of all the aid that it has given to the Somoza government, which mercilessly exploits the Nicaraguan people and violates the most elemental human rights in that country.

The statements made by Todman today are in contradiction with previous statements made by him in which he indicated that his mere presence as an official of the U.S. State Department in Nicaragua was an offense to the people of that Central American country.

The U.S. official also noted that his visit to Nicaragua was to take place as part of his present tour through Central America but that this is not the proper time for this visit because of the internal crisis in that country.

TORRIJOS COMMENTS TO NEWSMEN ON CANAL ZONE

PA282023Y Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1745 GMT 28 Jan 78 PA

[By Raul Cedeno]

[Excerpt] Gen Omar Torrijos arrived this morning in Chitre, Herrera Province, at approximately 1020 in his PAP-100 helicopter to await the arrival of a group of U.S. senators who are visiting us. The senators are accompanying him on a trip to Villa de Los Santos to inaugurate a child and family orientation center.

While waiting at the airport in Chitre for the arrival of the senators, General Torrijos talked with local and foreign newsmen. He told them that he has to be very careful now about what he says because he is on a minefield. He added that he cannot accept under any circumstances the expression "governor of the canal zone." I would rather call him "manager of the canal zone," he said.

Torrijos was accompanied by Lt Col Manuel Antonio Noriega, the vice president of the republic, Foreign Affairs Minister Nicolas Gonzalez Revilla and [Education] Minister Royo.

TORRIJOS URGES PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO BEAGLE CHANNEL

PA262235Y Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 26 Jan 78 PA

[Text] The chief of government's Information Advisory Council has issued the following communique containing the message sent by Gen Omar Torrijos, chief of government of the Republic of Panama, to Argentine President Gen Jorge Rafael Videla and Chilean President Gen Augusto Pinochet Ugarte:

A negotiated solution is always better then the use of force.

The use of force among Latin American countries, far from being a dignified solution in most cases, results in that conflict being passed from one generation to another without ever finding a solution. Chile and Argentina are two very important nations on the continent. They have served as a guide for us in developing our culture and sense of nationhood. With no other purpose, other than to express our concern over the news we are receiving here, are we addressing you.

Nothing could be more deplorable than to see a struggle between brothers, which would be a step backward for the growing unity of Latin America. We trust that you and your worthy nation will make every peaceful effort to solve the Beagle Channel problem.

We, the military, are often too prone to promote conflicts instead of trying to solve them. In Panama, we have tried to do the opposite in our negotiations with the United States, with the same dignity you and your people supported us throughout our difficult negotiations over the Panama Canal treaty, I want to tell you that the solution of your conflict will take place with greater ease and speed by keeping Chilean and Argentine battleships far from each other and by drawing together your countries.

REPORTS ON NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF CORREGIMENTO REPRESENTATIVES

Assembly Ready To Counter Plot

PA230323Y Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 20 Jan 78 pp 1, 8a PA

[Text of declaration issued by the leadership DIRECTIVA of the National Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives--date not given]

[Text] The leadership of the Republic of Panama National Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives, declaring:

1. Its total agreement and unlimited support to the resolutions approved by the Provincial Coordination Councils regarding the electoral debate to take place in February.

2. Its awareness of the responsibility of the popular power in the struggle begun by the Panamanian revolution to consolidate and defend the political structures created by the October 1968 revolutionary movement and its full awareness of its responsibilities in the intensification of the social changes and the advance toward the goals of development in the national liberation process.

3. Its full awareness that the battle for the recovery of the canal and all of the national resources that have been exploited by the United States since 1903 demands firm support for all decolonialization efforts made by General Torrijos as Panamanian Chief of Government leading to a final solution that will restore thse natural resources to the Panamanian heritage.

4. Its awareness that oligarchich and reactionary sectors with anti-Panamanian sentiments are uniting forces to destroy the revolution's work for the benefit of the Panamanian people.

Decides:

1. To ask the honorable Corregimiento representatives to strengthen the people's organizations in order to defend their conquests and to remain alert and ready to stop the counterrevolution.

2. To oppose emphatically by all possible means the reaction's use of money and other devious methods to distort the popular nature of the assembly.

3. To denounce to the Panamanian masses, Indians, peasants, workers, students, teachers, businessmen, professionals and intellectuals the plot concocted by powerful economic interests and reactionary politicians ousted in 1968.

4. To denounce the fascist demagogues disguised as democrats who seek to confuse the Panamanian people in order to carry out their treachery and crimes.

5. To remind the Panamanian people that the reactionary anti-Panamanians and admirers of fascism who intend to dominate the assembly during the coming elections are offended and outraged because of the popular nature of the assembly made up of Indians, peasants, workers and professionals.

6. Finally, to use all political and othermeans possible to wage a vigorous campaign for the preservation of the present popular power structure, which blocks the path of the reactionaries and the return to the shameful past which these oligarchic and anti-Panamanian groups want to bring back.

Assembly President Refutes Charges

PA211620Y Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 20 Jan 78 PA

[Text] The National Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives, in reply to the political parties that have tried to distort the Assembly's real purpose, has decided to hold a rally for the people of each of the corregimientos on community meeting day and to analyze the work of the junta and the general government, Representative Jose Octavio Huertas, president of the representative assembly, said.

The meeting between the honorable representatives and the members of the community and the rally will be held on the same day and at the same hour, although the exact date has not been set.

This decision emerged from a meeting held by the Assembly Directorate in view of the various attacks made on the Assembly of Representatives by the traditional political parties. Huertas said that the work of the representatives has benefited the respective communities, which have received an economic contribution estimated at over 25 million Balboas, not including the projects carried out by the central government on its own.

The assembly president said that it is logical that the tradidtional parties should protest because the political organization which created the assembly has broken all the traditional molds and because every change causes discomfort and rejection.

Jose Octavio Huertas also said that the 1972 constitution imposes limitations on the legislative work of the 505 representatives but that the way in which they are organized at present allows them to work at many levels. Likewise, the representative assembly is striving to increase its legislative powers by means of reforms to the constitution so that its vice presidents will become members of the Legislative Commission.

Referring to the accusations of a lack of legislative power, Huerta said that the work of the representatives is seen in the direct contact with the community which the representatives make, gathering opinions and information on community needs. He said that they do legislate at the level of the Provincial Legislation Council. Huertas emphatically said that in Panama there are communities which the government had never benefited but that with the representation of the 505, the benefits now reach the most remote corregimientos. Also, through the Provincial Coordination Councils the representatives become a pressure group and element which questions the public officials, be they ministers or directors of autonomous institutions.

Huertas, president of the Assembly, was accompanied during the interview by Carlos Calzadilla, assembly secretary general, and Carlos Garcia Martinez, legal advisor of the assembly.

In conclusion, Huertas said that 75 percent of the representatives have partly lost leadership in their communities because of political innocence and by doing good deeds for the sake of goodness.

Dean Queried on Constituent Assembly

PA272244Y Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 27 Jan 78 pp 1, 20 PA

[Article by Rafael Peralta Ortega]

[Text] "Article 140 of the national constitution establishes the manner in which this magna carta can be reformed," Cesar A. Quintero, dean of the Panama University School of Law and Political Sciences, said when we asked for his opinion regarding statements made by Romulo Escobar Bethancourt. The statements were made during a television program and have aroused considerable public interest.

The statements that Dr Quintero referred to said that "if a Constituent Assembly is called to amend the constitution this would be the equivalent of a coup d'etat."

Cesar A. Quintero said the following: "Article 140 of the national constitution provides that one or more of its articles may be amended, but that would require two consecutive Assemblies. That is to say that at present we would have to call a meeting of the present National Corregimiento Representatives Assembly to study and approve the amendments and that the Assembly sworn in on October of this year would for the second time have to ratify the proposed amendments.

"The approved amendments would not go into effect legally until 1984 with a new administration elected according to the terms of the present constitution.

"This naturally would be a lengthy process and I believe that when Romulo Escobar Bethancourt said that if a Constituent Assembly were called it would be a coup d'etat, he meant that would be the case technically because one cannot act according to a system not established by the constitution, and that he was not referring specifically to a change of the present rulers or a drastic change in the existing national organizations."

WFTU PRESIDENT ADDRESSES CNTP CONGRESS

PA210206Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1807 GMT 20 Jan 78 PA

[Speech by Enrique Pastorino, WFTU president, at the Fourth CNTP Congress at Justo Arosemena Legislative Palace in Panama City--live]

[Excerpts] Mr Labor and Welfare Minister of the Republic of Panama, Adolfo Ahumada, comrade leaders of the National Central of Panamanian Workers [CNTP], comrade delegates, guests and friends: On occasion of the Fourth CNTP Congress I extend to all comrade delegates the warm and fraternal greetings of the WFTU spokesman for the aspirations of the world's workers, in whose ranks the militant CNTP plays an active role.

Permit me to take this opportunity to greet especially the representatives of the other labor federations of Panama who together with our affiliates are setting a vibrant example of the practical realization of the workers' unity of action for common objectives. For this they can count on the sympathy and support of the WFTU, dedicated since its establishment to promoting the unity of the labor movement. We also greet the fraternal delegates from the unions of the socialist countries with the struggle of the Latin American workers, particularly the Soviet Union's and the glorious Cuban CTC, as well as the delegates of the Latin American Workers Permanent Congress for Trade Union Unity [CPUSTAL], an organization with which we have close bonds of cooperation and friendship, and the representatives of the labor organizations of the neighboring countries.

We are sincerely pleased with the growth registered by the CNTP and the increase of its prestige in the mobilization of the Panamanian people for the defense of their sovereignty and for furtherance of their social development and progress. Our WFTU, with its 180 million members, has always held high the banner of solidarity for the just national struggles of the workers and people of Panama for the recovery of their canal, unjustly expropriated by imperialism, and for independent development consonant with their aspirations. The WFTU has therefore welcomed the anti-imperialist efforts developed in this respect by the government headed by Gen Omar Torrijos and all the Panamanian people. [applause]

A great victory was won in Washington recently with the signing of a new treaty between the United States and Panama, which contains a great portion of the aspirations of the Panamanian people and the justice of their demand. Imperialism was forced to retreat, just as it had to do in Vietnam and Angola. [applause]

We already had occasion to welcome this great step when we came through Panama on the same day that the event took place, 7 September 1977. The new treaty has been ratified by the people of Panama in a historic plebiscite and now the eyes of the world are on the U.S. Senate, waiting for it to ratify it. However, the resistance of the most regressive forces, of the enemies of peace enthroned in the U.S. Senate itself, has not been broken yet. Therefore, one must wonder how it is possible that in this last quarter of the 20th century, characterized by the uncontainable advance of the forces of peace and progress, when the dominant trend is of international detente, of the independence of the former colonies and of the march of the peoples toward a new world economic order, there are still politicians, even senators of a great nation, who would deny the right of the Panamanian people to exercise their sovereignty and to live in their fatherland in peace. [applause and shouts from the audience]

The fact is that imperialism, in spite of the blows it has received, is not resigned to losing positions and uses all possible forms of pressure to implement its global strategy of aggression.

It is the same imperialism which has established fascism in Chile, in Uruguay, in Brazil and in other Latin American countries to drown in blood the struggle for national salvation. It is the same imperialism that promotes the racist and aggressive policy of South Africa, the expansionism of Israel, the conspiracy against Cyprus, the provocations against the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea, the overt threats against the desire of the Western European peoples for changes. It is the same imperialism which mocks the historic agreements of Helsinki and develops new and horrendous arms for genocide, such as the neutron bomb, which has been cynically labeled as a clean bomb because it kills without destroying the wealth produced by human toil. [shouts of "down with imperialism"]

However, the imperialists are wrong if they believe they can stop the progress of humanity in an era in which the correlation of forces always favors peace and social progress. We will remain beside the Panamanian people in this new stage of struggle to attain the ratification of the new Panama Canal treaty, and afterwards we will maintain a militant watch over the faithful fulfillment of its provisions. This solidarity of the WFTU is unequivocal and one of principle. It corresponds to its ideals and its deep conviction, and it is based solely on its objective of defending the interests of the workers and the people for a free, dignified and peaceful life.

CNTP CONGRESS CLOSES, REELECTS SECRETARY GENERAL

PA231948Y Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 23 Jan 78 PA

[Text] The Fourth Regular Congress of the National Central of Panamanian Workers [CNTP] closed yesterday during a ceremony held at the Justo Arosemena Palace. Delegates from 12 countries, including Peru, El Salvador, the Soviet Union, Cuba, Vietnam, Yugoslavia, Costa Rica, Puerto Rico, Colombia and Hungary attended the labor congress.

The CNTP Congress began on Friday, 20 January, and closed on Sunday, 22 January. It approved several resolutions, notably rejecting the return of political parties, rejecting the senators' visits, supporting a common front to save Colon, condemning the Somoza regime for killing politician and newsman Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, supporting the Belize cause, supporting the Panamanian Government's promulgation of the law nationalizing the making of commercials and the work of Gen Omar Torrijos Herrera's administration.

The CNTP Congress advocated repealing Law No 95 [and discussed] divisions in the labor movement and the need for unity, elections in 1978, political rights before and after 1968 and the outlook for the economic system.

Secretary General Angel Gomez was reelected to his post. The other executive board members will be Rodrigo Egberto Martinez, Norma de Jaen, Luis Tuy, (Jesus A. Moredi), Enrique Jaen, Antonio (Yeppes), Jose Meneses, Andres Martinez, (Noriel Baiza), Domingo Barria and Florencio de Gracia.

BELIZE

PREMIER PRICE RETURNS FROM TALKS IN LONDON

FL281840Y Belize City Domestic Service in English 0100 GMT 28 Jan 78 FL

[Text] The premier, accompanied by the attorney general the Honorable Assad Shoman, returned from London to Belize this morning. Ambassador Courtenay remained in London for a few days, where he will continue to work for winning more friends for Belize.

In a commentary for Radio Belize, the premier said that the recent London consultations produced no agreed proposals for a settlement of the Anglo-Guatemalan issue in accordance with the United Nations and Commonwealth heads of government resolutions in favor of a secured and independent Belize with its territorial integrity.

The premier further said that the people and government of Belize must continue to find an acceptable solution which will be put to the people for their decision. But the task is made more difficult when some Belizeans who oppose the government advocate land cessions. This can only be comforting encouragement to those who demand cessions of Belizean lands.

COSTA RICA

FOREIGN MINISTRY GRANTS ASYLUM TO GUATEMALAN GUERRILLA

PA280105Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0025 GMT 28 Jan 78 PA

[Text] The Foreign Ministry decided a few minutes ago to grant political asylum to Guatemalan guerrilla Mario Alberto Dominguez. We repeat: The Foreign Affairs Ministry a few minutes ago decided to grant Mario Alberto Dominguez--a Guatemalan citizen who is said to be a guerrilla--political asylum.

Mario Alberto Dominguez, who was wounded seven times, entered the Costa Rican Embassy in Guatemala City at dawn yesterday. The Costa Rican diplomatic authorities in Guatemala immediately began the necessary legal and diplomatic work to find a prompt solution to the problem.

The head of the Costa Rican Foreign Ministry [words indistinct] a few minutes ago that efforts are being made right now to obtain the necessary safeconduct for Mario Alberto Dominguez to be brought to our country probably tomorrow afternoon, Saturday.

Diplomatic sources in Guatemala City say that the refugee's condition has improved. However, the Foreign Ministry says that the young Guatemalan citizen's condition is very critical and for this reason, the Red Cross is involved. He will go to Costa Rica tomorrow to receive the medical help.

GOVERNMENT GRANTS POLITICAL ASYLUM TO SANDINISTS

PA271819Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 27 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Based on the 1974 Caracas Convention, the rights and duties of Havana [as heard] and the friendship agreement signed with Nicaragua in 1949, the Costa Rican Government has proceeded to grant political asylum to five members of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN].

The five Sandinists who have been granted political asylum are: Carlos Ibarra Padilla, Arnoldo Juan Ponce, Cesar Augusto Estrada Games, Ramon Macis Henriquez and Roberto Montenegro Pastrana.

NICARAGUAN EXILES PRESENT REQUEST TO TERENCE TODMAN

PA280421Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0215 GMT 28 Jan 78 PA

[Excerpt] San Jose, 27 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--A request for the United States to stop all support to Gen Anastasio Somoza's government in Nicaragua awaited Terence Todman, assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, upon his arrival in Costa Rica this afternoon. A group of Nicraguan political exiles presented Todman with the request as soon as he set foot in Costa Rica. Todman took the document without comment.

EL SALVADOR

MOLINA ACCUSED OF ORDERING BORGONOVO KILLING

PA281609Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1009 GMT 28 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 29 Jan (AFP)--The late Mauricio Borgonovo, former foreign affairs minister of El Salvador, "was slain by order of former President Arturo Armando Molina and not by the guerrillas," Salvadoran soldiers who took asylum in Mexico said here.

Borgonovo was kidnaped and assassinated in April 1977 alledgedly by the leftist Salvadoran Liberation Army.

The newspaper ULTIMAS NOTICIAS DE EXCELSIOR this Friday carried a report on charges made by six Salvadoran soldiers--three sergeants, a corporal and two members of the National Guard whose identities it did not reveal--in which they accused the Salvadoran Government of the assassination. Two of them sitnessed the slaying of Borgonovo.

According to the Salvadoran soldiers, the newspaper says, Borgonovo discovered that Federico Castillo Llanes, former Salvadoran defense minister, and other top government officials "were buying arms in the United States which they were delivering to alleged guerrillas of the White Warriors Union and of Orden" [not further identified], but who in fact were members of the National Guard.

MNR REJECTS PARTICIPATION IN 12 MAR ELECTIONS

PA272057Y San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1720 GMT 27 Jan 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] San Salvador--After analyzing the nation's political situation, the National Revolutionary Movement's [MNR] directors have decided not to participate in the elections for deputies and councilmen on 12 March 1978. This leaves the National Conciliation Party, the official party, as the only one that will participate in the elections. The other opposition parties have decided not to participate and the Salvadoran Popular Party [PPS] and the United Independent Democratic Front [FUDI] have been abolished by law.

GUATEMALA

GUERRILLA LEAVES COUNTRY FOR COSTA RICA 28 JAN

PA282055Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1849 GMT 28 Jan 78 PA

[Excerpt] Guatemala City, 28 Jan (AFP)--The Guatemalan guerrilla Mario Alberto Dominguez Morales today left for Costa Rica after he had been granted a safeconduct, the Costa Rican Embassy announced.

Dominguez, who had taken asylum on Wednesday in the Costa Rican Embassy here, left at 1320 (1830 GMT) aboard a private plane, the embassy reported. Three Red Cross doctors approved his trip after performing an operation on him at the embassy.

CHILEAN VICE FOREIGN MINISTER BACKS CLAIM TO BELIZE

PA280145Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2350 GMT 27 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 27 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--Chilean Vice Foreign Minister Gen Enrique Valdez Puga said here today that his country supports Guatemala's claim to the territory of Belize.

"Justice is behind Guatemala in its sustained demand that Great Britain return the territory of Belize," Valdez Puga said. The Chilean vice foreign minister is making a 4-day official visit to Guatemala.

After arriving here yesterday, Valdez Puga met with Guatemalan President Gen Kjell Laugerud Garcia and Foreign Minister Adolfo Molina Orantes to discuss the issue of Belize and the dispute between Chile and Argentina on the Beagle Channel.

Valdez Puga today traveled to the 400-year-old city of Antigua where he was awarded the Order of the Quetzal, the country's highest distinction.

On Saturday, he will visit the Maya center of Tikal and will end his visit on Sunday.

GUERRILLAS SET NEW DEMANDS FOR RELEASE OF HOSTAGE

PA272051Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1920 GMT 27 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 27 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--The Poor People's Guerrilla Army, which has been holding former Foreign Minister Roberto Herrera Ibarguen since 31 December, today set new conditions for his release.

The rebels asked the government to "totally suspend military, police, paramilitary and parapolice operations throughout the nation" until they put Roberto Herrera Ibarguen "in the hands of his relatives."

At the same time, the guerrillas asked that Mario Alberto Dominguez Morales--a guerrilla who was freed by his comrades Tuesday night from a hospital where he was recovering from wounds sustained in a clash with security forces--be released in "safe and sound" condition in Costa Rica.

The guerrilla army says it "rejects all responsibility" and that it is the government, army and police who will be held responsible "for what might happen to Herrera Ibarguen if in the operation of handing him over to his family there is a clash between guerrilla units and repressive official forces."

The guerrillas sent their latest communique to the Guatemalan Newsmen's Association where a package containing the document addressed to all of the communications media arrived at noon (1800 GMT). Originally, the guerrillas asked the relatives of the former foreign minister to publish several communiques and to pay a ransom. Both conditions have been met. As for today's communique, its first part reported on a clash between a guerrilla cell and government forces in which "comrades Clemencia Paiz Caramo, Alejandro and Jorge died, and Mario Alberto Dominguez Morales was unable to escape but was seriously wounded."

The clash was in Mazatenango, on the south coast, on Tuesday the 17th. Dominguez Morales was captured and confined in the department hospital.

The guerrilla's communique added that "the solidarity which should exist among revolutionary comrades" led them to prevent him from falling into the hands of the "torturers and murderers of repressive government forces;" he took refuge in the Costa Rican Embassy on Wednesday morning.

"The sorrow at the death of our comrades," the rebel groups said, "should be transformed into hatred for the exploiters and their agents and into a willingness to fight."

Also, they repeated that "the Herrera Ibarguen family met the demands we made." According to rumors, the ransom paid for the release of the former foreign minister was $2-3 million.

NICARAGUA

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON GENERAL STRIKE OVER CHAMORRO DEATH

Tension Continues in Managua

PA2715417 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1500 GMT 27 Jan 78 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 27 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--With the increased difficulty of purchasing gasoline, the nationwide strike which began in Nicaragua on Monday entered its 5th day today with no solution in sight.

President Anastasio Somoza, whom the opposition has asked to resign, has stated that the cabinet will continue to meet "until the strike is over." Managua and a growing number of cities in the countryside are being affected by the strike.

Local information media said today that the government might be contemplating "forceful action to counteract the strike." It was said that the government might use government employees to operate indispensable commercial establishments such as supermarkets, which are closed. It was also said that government employees have been ordered to take turns standing guard in the government ministries and other offices.

In the meantime, the Nicaraguan Army has announced that the owners of certain commercial establishments have asked for police cooperation to open their businesses. In view of these requests, an official National Guard communique said today the police are in a position to give protection and security both to the owners of stores who want to open as well as to their employees and the public in general.

"The armed institution repeats its inalterable determination to observe the strictest discipline at this time when thoughtless groups have confabulated to create a atmosphere of unrest that can only hurt the national welfare and development," the army said. On the other hand, the Nicaraguan Development Institute (INDE)--one of the private sector organizations backing the strike--announced that a total of 156 large commercial, industrial and other establishments are on strike in Managua. The same organization said it had not been able to establish the number of small businesses not affiliated with the Chamber of Commerce which are closed.

last night, military contingents dispersed two demonstrations staged by workers, students and the public in general. A demonstration of 700 persons was dispersed in La Fuente District of Managua and another of 200 persons in Monsenor Lezcano District. Both demonstrations were in support of the strike. Pronouncements by the bishops and Conservative senators and deputies on the situation are expected today.

Woman Killed in Leon Demonstration

PA271800Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 27 Jan 78 PA

[Text] A fruit vendor identified as Eva Caballero was killed during this morning's incidents in Leon, Nicaragua. She was killed during an incident a few minutes ago when National Guard units tried to disperse a demonstration staged by high school students and workers against Anastasio Somoza's regime.

Radio Denies Woman Killed

PA280430Y Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0330 GMT 28 Jan 78 PA

[Text] It is not true that anyone was killed during disturbances at the central market of Leon. Several news media, abusing their listeners and irresponsibly [words indistinct]. We are in a position to state that no one was killed and that the problems were solved by national guardsmen under the Leon Command.

Church Admits Pressure for Change

PA272034Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2008 GMT 27 Jan 78 PA

[By Ricardo Ritter]

[Excerpt] Managua, 27 Jan (LATIN)--The Nicaraguan Catholic Church admitted today that great pressure is being exerted for a change of government in the country and reaffirmed its position of "nonviolence," following the same policy as the business strike that has kept this central American nation in a semiparalyzed state for the past 4 days.

Meanwhile, President Anastasio Somoza, confronted by a serious business challenge, tomorrow will head a large caravan of automobiles to the port of Corinto, some 150 km northeast of Managua. The ceremony there, to inaugurate port works valued at some $30 million, was prepared with the participation of all government agencies and the Nationalist Liberal Party (PLN) as a demonstration of strength in the face of the strike. The caravan will pass through the departments of Managua, Leon and Chinandegas, where the strike has the most strength.

Today, police were protecting businessmen and employees who wished to work, but a tour through the main commercial section of the capital revealed that only 5 of 200 businesses were open.

Managua Archbishop Miguel Obando said during an exclusive interview with this press agency that "there is much pressure for a change in government and evidence of this pressure is this strike."

The strike, regarded as unprecedented in Nicaragua's political history, seems to reflect the unity of the opposition to Somoza's government. The strike has been organized by the managerial and labor sectors working together.

The National Guard has warned that "in view of the threats" it has ordered its troops "to give the necessary protection to the owners of establishments and their employees as well as the public in general."

Five National Guard vehicles with three heavily armed soldiers today guarded the entrance to Managua's commerical center, the most important in this city of almost half a million inhabitants, while groups of 3 National Guard jeeps patrolled the city's semideserted streets.

NOVEDADES, the morning newspaper which is owned by the Somoza family, said television Channel 2 had received threats that its installations might be destroyed, adding that "the National Guard will observe the strictest discipline at this hour in which groups of rash citizens have plotted to create an atmosphere of unrest."

Conservative Bloc Calls Urgent Meeting

PA272138Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2112 GMT 27 Jan 78 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 27 Jan (ACAN-EPE)--The 40 deputies and senators of the Conservative Party (opposition recognized by the government) today called an urgent meeting of both National Congress chambers to discuss the disruptive situation affecting Nicaragua and the president's resignation.

The legislative branch is being convened by the minority party mainly to learn about the requests of many opposition political sectors for the resignation of Gen Anastasio Somoza.

In an official document released at noon today, the Conservative legislators state:

"In view of the critical situation affecting the country and the deterioration of public services caused by the government's inability to comply with the most elemental demands of justice and maintain respect for the people's guarantees and human rights, it is imperative to make a constitutional change in the president of the republic."

As the position of the Conservative legislators was being announced, it was also learned that the Liberal deputies will meet this afternoon with President Somoza at the military club. It is expected that the Liberal deputies and senators will give their support to President Somoza at this crucial hour.

Government Considering Emergency Decree

PA272209Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2124 GMT 27 Jan 78 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 27 Jan (ACAN-EPE)--The number of large Nicaraguan industries and businesses supporting the national strike in its 5th consecutive day rose today to 246. Meanwhile, three companies, among them the Fabritex textile factory, have accepted the Nicaraguan Army's offer "to provide protection to all business owners wishing to normalize their operations as well as to the workers concerned over their companies' paralyzation." The strike has extended to include the gasoline distributors, who have decided to suspend their activities because of the detention of Modesto Rojas, one of their colleagues, on Wednesday afternoon.

For its part, the university students' movement remains active, totally supporting the strike but remaining at the university campus. Julian Corrales, assistant rector of the national university, has asked the police patrols not to come near the university in order to prevent incidents.

From another quarter, several transportation business spokesmen claim that their drivers have been forced to work under military pressure. The businessmen also said they had been summoned to a meeting today at the National Transport Council, an Economy Ministry agency.

Meanwhile, Managua Archbishop Msgr Miguel Obando y Bravo commented that the Episcopal conference is keeping up on all last-minute developments. The conference, he added, may be convened in the next few hours to examine the country's crisis, "to which it cannot remain indifferent."

Finally, and according to highly reliable sources, the government is considering the possibility of decreeing a state of national emergency [estado de emergencia nacional], in view of the fact that today is the 5th day of the general strike.

Managua Radio Report on Strike

PA280119Y Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2300 GMT 27 Jan 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] The following is a roundup on the country's situation:

Approximately 1,000 university students paraded through Leon's streets this morning demanding justice in the case of the murder of Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Cardenal and inviting the people to join the strike. According to reports received at this station, National Guard soldiers provided protection for the demonstrators. The march started at the Nicaraguan Autonomous University and went through the university campus streets.

More workers in Managua and Masaya joined the strike to demand justice in the case of the murder of Pedro Joaquin Chamorro on 10 January. The businesses which closed their doors today by decision of their workers are Ferroarte, where approximately 60 workers went on strike; Yansa Ingenieros, a road construction company; and some 150 workers of the [name indistinct] farm owned by Jesuit priests. In communiques, the workers demanded the solving of the murder of Chamorro. Other workers who went on strike are employed at El Porvenir clothing factory in Masaya.

Five days after the start of the strike more companies are joining it. Two sugar mills are paralyzed in Chinandega Department, [words indistinct] owned by the (?Sola) family and the Monte Rosa mill owned by the Lacayo Montealegre family. The plants and the field workers also struck to demand justice.

The first two observers from the Latin American Federation of Journalists arrived in Managua at 0830 today. They are Aquiles Marquez, member of the Venezuelan Association of Journalists, and Alvaro Alvarez, editor of LA HORA of Costa Rica. Other delegates are expected tomorrow, including three Mexican journalists who will meet with labor leaders, private business representatives and members of the Managua Radio Journalists Union.

The demands of the women who occupied the UN offices in Managua are being processed. A representative of the Nicaraguan Democratic Women has joined the other women of the Association of Women for the National Problems and Christian Communities.

When our reporter arrived at the UN office today, the women who are relatives of the political prisoners and missing peasants said that their demands are being processed. As you know, they took over the offices several days ago, and this morning, the National Guard removed the barricades which they had placed at the entrance of the building. They are demanding the release of the political prisoners, information about the missing peasants and justice in the killing of Chamorro.

The government ministry has warned the representatives of the business chambers that they are violating the law. Government Minister Antonio Mora Rostran sent telegrams today to the presidents of the various private business chambers advising them that by joining the national strike they are violating the law. He told them that if they violate the law they must suffer the consequences provided by the same law. So far, the telegrams have been received by the presidents of the industries, commerce and construction chambers. The representatives of private business are now meeting to discuss the warning from the government ministry.

The economy ministry has been trying since yesterday to determine which businesses have joined the strike. Complete information will not be known until tomorrow. It was reported that the government is ready to cancel the import licenses and the industrial classifications of the industries which joined the strike.

Somoza Reorganizes Emergency Committee

PA2801407 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0100 GMT 28 Jan 78 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 27 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--Nicaraguan President Gen Anastasio Somoza has unexpectedly reorganized the National Emergency Committee [CNE], which was created after the December 1972 earthquake that destroyed this capital.

The CNE was reorganized today with General Somoza as its top executive and Orlando Montenegro Medrano, current minister of the national district or mayor of Managua, as its vice president.

Public Education Minister Maria Helena de Porras was appointed secretary, and Finance and Public Credit Minister Gen Samuel Genie was appointed treasurer. The rest of the ministers will be voting members.

Somoza, recognizing the serious crisis confronting his government took this step in order to take the necessary measures and decisions "to maintain public tranquility, political and economic stability, authority, security and the prestige of the country."

Meanwhile, the priests of the Managua Archdiocese today expressed support for the struggle for a change in Nicaragua's structures. They stressed that it would be sad if the effort being made "would be limited to a game among the powerful, mocking the dispossessed and leaving them in the same situation." After urging the authorities and leaders of the country to search for civilized solutions, the church called on the people to remain "calm and firm in their faith and devlotion, as many communities have already done." It should be pointed out that the private sector groups that have been in permanent session at the headquarters of the Nicaraguan Development Institute [INDE] have increased in number from 9 to 12 with the addition of the Nicaraguan Association of Engineers and Architects, the Nicaraguan Association of Coffee Growers and the National Association of Advertisers. These groups today denounced the threats and pressure directed against them by the authorities and government sectors.

Taking a harsher position, which so far has been peaceful, the private sector groups said that "we will remain alert and reject any type of coercion. We are prepared to present concrete challenges if the antidemocratic campaign persists. We are united and prepared to vigorously defend by any means at our disposal the persons, businesses or associations which may be mistreated by physical means or through their property," they said after confirming that the general strike has continued in full force throughout the nation.

Decree Bans Strike Reporting

PA280503Y Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 0455 GMT 28 Jan 78 PA

[Text] We interrupt the transmission of Valdivia's commentary to read news just received from the owner of Radio Corporacion. It is a government decree from the National Emergency Committee banning the transmission of news related to the incidents affecting the country. We repeat: The owner of Radio Corporacion has just been notified that by order of the National Emergency Committee, founded after the 1972 earthquake, no further news related to the incidents affecting the country can be transmitted.

Newsmen To Ignore Ban

PA291323Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2349 GMT 28 Jan 78 PA

[Excerpt] Managua, 29 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--Nicaraguan journalists are going to ignore the ban on reporting on the country's political crisis decreed by the National Directorate of Radio and Television. This decision was reached today during an assembly convoked by the Union of Radio Newscasters [Sindicato de Radioperiodistas--SRP] of Managua, at which newsmen resolved to continue providing information to the public.

Col Alberto Luna, head of the National Directorate of Radio and Television, has advised newsmen of measures adopted under the "national emergency law" placed into effect last night by Gen Anastasio Somoza's government because of the national strike underway in the country.

The law obliges radio and television news services to refrain from any reports which directly or indirectly promote or generate anxiety, alarm or panic among the citizenry.

The law also obliges the news media to join a network with the government station at any time. In addition, it orders directors of radio newscasts to maintain a broadcast schedule authorized by the directorate.

The SRP assembly was attended by delegations from the Latin American Federation of Newsmen, the Newsmen's Association of Leon (in the western part of the country) and the Association of Newsmen of the East [Asociacion de Periodistas de Oriente].

The newsmen established a nine-member "Front for the Defense of Expression" which will determine news guidelines for the immediate future and will coordinate the support that Nicaraguan newsmen may offer to other labor groups.

RADIO CRITICIZES 'MILITARISTIC NATURE' OF U.S. BUDGET

FL271836Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 27 Jan 78 FL

[Text] The U.S. Congress is currently debating the draft budget submitted by James Carter for the 1979 fiscal year, which becomes effective 1 October. The new U.S. budget has a markedly militaristic nature. Appropriations for warmongering expenditures amount to $120.4 billion, almost $12 billion more than the military appropriations in the present budget.

Other additional appropriations have also been added for warmongering activities and research; these have been included in the appropriations of other offices and departments. The Department of Energy alone receives $2.8 billion for these purposes. The budget for construction of the neutron bomb has been covered up in a chapter under the title of "Funds for Public Works."

The 1979 budget constitutes a new demonstration of the spiraling arms race and the U.S. Government's bellicose line.

Further Comment

PA291825Y Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Jan 78 PA

["World Events" commentary]

[Text] U.S. President James Carter has just presented to Congress a proposed budget for fiscal year 1979 totalling $500.2 billion. One-fourth of the budget, $150.8 billion, will be used for military spending. This area will receive larger allocations than public health or education.

It is significant that the presidential budget does not provide for any appreciable stimulus to the U.S. economy. The (?present) fiscal year has been marked by financial crisis, high inflation, chronic unemployment and the devaluation of the dollar.

The military budget proposed by James Carter is the largest in the history of the United States, and represents an increase of $10 billion over that of 1978. It is the greatest peacetime military budget ever. This presidential proposal contrasts sharply with the promises Carter made during his electoral campaign, when he promised to reduce military spending by $5 to $7 billion annually.

The proposed military budget provides for the strategic forces to be augmented with the Cruise missile and intercontinental (?ballistic) missiles, the use of which requires special investments. Moreover, it would provide funds for the construction of a new (?nuclear) submarine, the eighth in the U.S. fleet.

Under the proposed presidential budget, the U.S. Navy would receive allocations for the construction of 14 guided missiles, 1 attack submarine, 8 frigates, 3 antisubmarine warfare ships and 2 [word indistinct] ships.

In other areas, the military budget presented to Congress provides that the air force combat units assigned to NATO countries be augmented through the purchase of new F-15 and F-16 fighters and with the [word indistinct] combat plane.

In presenting his proposed military budget for 1979, James Carter stated that the U.S. military [word indistinct] and alliances should be maintained with [words indistinct] as necessary. Defense Secretary Harold Brown said for his part that the new budget is adequate for maintaining a strong national defense posture and that it will make U.S. military forces more efficient throughout the world, particularly in Western Europe.

President Carter's proposed budget also demands a special budget authorization by Congress to increase funds for military assistance to other countries and to improve the offensive capability of NATO. Consequently, this year, the United States' shipments of arms abroad will total $15.2 billion, $10 billion more than last year [words indistinct] the U.S. President [words indistinct] and promised to keep military expenditures lower than in 1977.

This substantial increase in the U.S. military budget reflects Washington's decision to increase the (?efficiency) of the troops abroad as an instrument of military and political coercion to (?confront) the socialist countries and threaten their security.

To the presidential recommendation (?can be added) the congressional decision to have the United States continue the development of the deadly neutron bomb [words indistinct] so that its NATO allies may agree to the stationing of this diabolical weapon in Western Europe.

The weapons buildup in the United States, which stagnates the U.S. economy even more by the increase in unproductive military spending, reflects the increasing influence of the Pentagon and the military-industrial complex in government decisions. This influence will have dangerous repercussions in the process of detente and the achievement of international peace and security.

CIA SAYS ISRAEL HAS HAD NUCLEAR WEAPONS SINCE 1974

FL271915Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 27 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Reports from Washington say that it appears the CIA, through carelessness, has disclosed that Israel has been producing nuclear weapons since 1974 with uranium obtained clandestinely. Afterwards, a CIA spokesman admitted that the publication of the information was a mistake and that some of these documents should have been kept secret.

PRAVDA CITED ON DISINTEGRATION OF COSMOS-954 SATELLITE

FL282030Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2010 GMT 28 Jan 78 FL

[Headline of item: "Anti-Soviet Positions of the Bourgeois Press Reported"]

[Text] PRAVDA today comments that despite the realistic reaction of several countries in connection with the accident of the Cosmos-954 satellite, it has become evident that some people take advantage of any pretext to assume anti-Soviet positions.

In Washington, Ottawa and other capitals, a realistic reaction was shown toward the Cosmos-854 case. However, there were press organs which endeavored to present the incident in a way that is distorted from anti-Soviet positions in order to sow distrust and fear.

Cosmos-954 was launched on 18 September carrying a small, nonexplosive nuclear plant to fuel the apparatus aboard. For unknown reasons, PRAVDA explains, a leak developed in the sputnik on 6 January and it began to descend until it reached dense layers of the atmosphere and disintegrated.

ETHIOPIAN ENVOY HOLDS MOSCOW PRESS CONFERENCE

FL280018Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Ethiopian Ambassador to the USSR Tsegaye Meshesha has held a press conference in Moscow. He said that Somalia is fully responsible for the situation created in the Horn of Africa region. He added that the Somali Government has unleashed armed aggression against the Ethiopian people. The Ethiopian ambassador to the USSR also asserted that his country has no intention of attacking any country and that its military operations are purely defensive.

Ethiopia firmly guides itself by the UN Charter and has called for settling the present conflict peacefully, but the Somali leaders do not want to settle the conflict through talks. They have not talked of withdrawing their occupation troops from Ethiopian territory and now are trying to internationalize the conflict. In this regard, he cited the open intervention of NATO-member countries such as the United States and Federal Republic of Germany. Further on, he reiterated the Ethiopian people's firm determination to safeguard the gains of their revolution and territorial integrity of their state, and to offer resolute resistance to the internal and external reactionary forces.

SOVIET AMBASSADOR VISITS SITE OF PLANNED OIL REFINERY

FL271745Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 27 Jan 78 FL

[Text] USSR Ambassador to Cuba Nikita Tolubeyev has toured the area where construction of an oil refinery is planned in the industrial zone of the city of Cienfuegos. The project is now in the final phase of studies of the land where the plant will be located. The refinery will be built with the internationalist assistance of the fraternal Soviet Nation. The visitor was accompanied by Cienfuegos PCC First Secretary Humberto Miguel Fernandez and other leaders. Tolubeyev also met with the Soviet and Cuban specialists who are working in that southern zone.

COSTA RICAN DEPUTY CULTURE MINISTER ARRIVES FOR VISIT

FL282303Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 28 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Maria de los Angeles Moreno, deputy minister of culture, youth and sports of the Republic of Costa Rica, is in our country accompanied by (General Brown), director of the symphony orchestra of that Central American country. The distinguished visitor has come in response to an invitation of the Culture Ministry. During her stay, she will hold meetings with high officials of this ministry. She will also visit the Higher Arts Institute, The Ballet House, the city's museums of history and of the revolution, Casa de las Americas, Union of Writers and Artists, Lenin Park, Alamar housing project, and other places of cultural and historical interest.

VALDES, MACHADO, PELAEZ ATTEND CONSTRUCTION MEETING

FL271323Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 27 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Ramiro Valdes, vice president of the Council of State and Council of Ministers, and Jose Ramon Machado Ventura, both Politburo members, have participated in the events at the first quarterly meeting on orientation, analysis and exchange of experiences for 1978 with the PCC Provincial Committee's Construction Bureau members and department chiefs.

This meeting, which is held periodically, dealt with the outlines for the party work in the fields of construction and building materials and the department's work plan for the present year. PCC Central Committee Secretariat member Raul Garcia Pelaez gave the closing remarks at this meeting, in which he stated that the fundamental task of the party in construction work is to see to it that the work is done on time and as planned for in the industrial priorities for this year. The meeting was held last Wednesday and Thursday at the PCC Central Committee offices.

FIDEL CASTRO DEDICATES PINAR DEL RIO VOCATIONAL SCHOOL

FL281700Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 28 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee and President of the Council of State and Council of Ministers, has dedicated the Friedrich Engels Vocational School in Pinar del Rio. The inauguration of the school was dedicated to the 125th anniversary of the birth of Jose Marti. The ceremony also served to dedicate the Provincial Child Care Center Instructors Training School in Pinar del Rio. The ceremony was attended by Ramiro Valdes and Jose Ramon Machado Ventura, both members of the PCC Politburo; members of the Central Committee; leaders of the state and government and of the Union of Young Communists, PCC and mass organizations in the province. On arrival at the school Fidel was received by the members of the board of directors. He also saw the gigantic sculpture of Friedrich Engels located at the school's main entrance. Our commander in chief then toured various school installations, visited the Natural Sciences Museum, the data processing center and an exposition on automated systems and data processing techniques. At the amphiteater, Fidel was greeted by students and guests, observed a beautiful cultural show and, finally, made the closing remarks. Before ending his visit to the Friedrich Engels Vocational School in Pinar del Rio, our commander in chief wrote in the schools' log: With enormous pleasure we have inaugurated this school, one of the most marvellous works I have ever seen. My deepest wish is that its students be worthy of the name of Friedrich Engels given to the school and faithful and modest disciples of the glorious master [Jose Marti], the 125th anniversary of whose birth we commemorate tomorrow. I leave here with a deep impression of its young and enthusiastic professors and students, and full of optimism and hope.

Details of Castro Speech

FL281705Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Jan 78 FL

[Text] With an artistic show and a speech by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the party and president of the Council of State and Council of Ministers, the Friedrich Engels Vocational School located on the outskirts of the city of Pinar del Rio has been officially inaugurated. Speaking at the ceremony, the first secretary of the party urged the 2,500 students to attain the academic, disciplinary and formal educational levels which will distinguish the school as a model of its type. The Friedrich Engels school students promptly responded to the exhortation of the commander in chief and the council of state president received from the students a formal pledge to be winners in the fraternal emulation which he recommended be established between vocational schools. Fidel emphasized in his speech how complex it is to manage a school such as this vocational school in Pinar del Rio which requires zealous fulfillment of duties established for the school's students, professors, deputy directors and director. Pleased with what he described as the encouraging atmosphere in the vocational school, the commander in chief emphasized the importance of the work of political and mass organizations, especially that of the Federation of Intermediate Level Students--FEEM. Along with PCC Politburo members Jose Ramon Machado Ventura and Ramiro Valdes, the ceremony also was presided over by members of the PCC Central Committee Secretariat, ministers and education officials.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

BALAGUER ADDRESSES CARIBBEAN CONFERENCE IN MIAMI

FL201918Y Santo Domingo Radio Clarin in Spanish to Listeners Abroad 1905 GMT 20 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Miami--President Joaquin Balaguer last night asserted that the most important thing in a human rights policy is to guarantee individuals the enjoyment of peace, [word indistinct] and education. The chief of state made this statement when referring to the human rights campaign being carried on by the administration of U.S. President Jimmy Carter.

Balaguer spoke at the second annual conference on Caribbean Trade, Investments and Development being held at the Sheraton-Four Ambassadors Hotel in Miami. In a 30-minute speech, interrupted several times by applause, Balaguer also referred to foreign investment, saying it is highly important for all Latin American countries. He said that foreign investment is of particular interest to Caribbean countries because--with the exception of Venezuela and Colombia, and perhaps Trinidad-Tobago, which has become an oil-producing country in the gold era of this mineral--our countries are at the lowest levels in the development process and, therefore, the economies are more vulnerable.

[In another speech at the same conference, Kingston Domestic Service in English at 1730 GMT on 21 January reports that "Costa Rican President Daniel Oduber has criticized United States trade restrictions affecting Caribbean countries as being inconceivable." The report goes on to note that "the Costa Rican President said it is inconceivable that at this time there still exist arbitrary restrictions on trade between the United States and Caribbean countries. According to the president, all sorts of difficulties exist so that the product of the work of Caribbean peoples is poorly paid for in comparision to goods imported by the United States from Canada and Western Europe. The president said if international commerce is unfair to the Caribbean area, it could be deduced that the only thing the United States desires in the Caribbean is to have a military presence for its own defense."]

President Returns From Miami

FL212046Y [Editorial report FL] Santo Domingo Radio Clarin in Spanish at 1920 GMT on 21 January begins live coverage from San Isidro military base of the welcoming ceremony for Dominican President Joaquin who is expected to arrive from Miami, Florida, "in about 12 minutes." The Clarin reporter announces that Vice President Carlos Rafael Goico Morales, Armed Forces Secretary Juan Rene Beauchamps Javier, National Police Chief Neit Rafael Nivar Seijas, other members of the cabinet and government and military officials are present at the air base to welcome the president. Clarin reports that "hundreds of persons are gathered" at the base to welcome the president and that the plane can be seen making its approach at 1938 GMT. It announces touchdown of the plane at 1942 GMT, and it comes to a stop at the point of the ceremony at 1946 GMT. Continuing with its reportage, Clarin announces that the vice president, Armed Forces Secretary Beauchamps Javier, the U.S. charge d'affaires, and Deputy Foreign Secretary Licelot Marte de Barrios enter the plane. The president, his sister Emma Balaguer de Vallejo, and the rest of the entourage, including the U.S. ambassador, deplane a few minutes later.

President Balaguer is then welcomed by various government and military officials. This is followed by a 21-gun salute and simultaneous playing of the national anthem. Balaguer then makes a 2-minute speech, saying he only wants to "greet our compatriots on our return to the country and express our deepest gratitude to all who wished success for our trip." He adds that the Dominican Republic's participation in the conference on Caribbean problems "has been at least well known" thanks to the "brilliant and outstanding participation" of the Central Bank governor and all the "extremely interesting" work presented by Dominican economist Bernardo Vega.

Balaguer goes on to say that "we have received from all the U.S. authorities the best of attentions. We consider it an honor rendered not to us but to the Dominican Republic and the Dominican people." He concludes by expressing his gratitude "to Mr Todman, assistant secretary for inter-American affairs, to all the members of the Department of State Inter-American Affairs Division; to the governor of Florida, who is one of the most prominent political personalities in the United States," to the Miami mayor's office and to everyone in the United States who "gave us a very warm welcome."

Immediately upon conclusion of Balaguer's remarks, the entourage boards the motorcade that will take the president to his residence. The motorcade arrives at the presidential residence on Maximo Gomez Avenue at 2023 GMT. The president and other officials enter the residence at 2027 GMT followed by "hundreds of reformist party leaders and members" who will welcome the president at his home. Clarin reports that "thousands of persons" have gathered around the residence "singing, dancing and full of joy," and carrying placards hailing Balaguer. Radio Clarin mobile units continue reporting on welcoming activities until 2042 GMT, when broadcasting returns to the main studios. Throughout the coverage, Radio Clarin repeatedly announced that it was "broadcasting to the entire world jointly with WQBA la Cubanisima of Miami, Florida."

REVOLUTIONARY PARTY MAY FORM OPPOSITION ALLIANCE

PA2616202Y Buenos Aires Latin in Spanish 0419 GMT 26 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Santo Domingo, 25 Jan (LATIN)--The Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD), the country's strongest opposition force, has announced its decision to negotiate an alliance with other opposition groups for the 16 May elections. Previously, the PRD would not consider an alliance with any other group.

PRD presidential candidate Silvestre Antonio Guzman had said earlier that his candidacy was not negotiable, but last night he said he was willing to sacrifice his aspirations if a strong opponent capable of defeating President Joaquin Balaguer in the upcoming elections emerges.

Francisco Augusto Lora, a former vice president and presidential candidate, has said that only the unity of the opposition forces can confront Balaguer's government. Apparently Lora and some other PRD leader would comprise the team that would confront Balaguer.

PRD Secretary General Jose Francisco Pena Gomez said yesterday that his party has to make a pact for unity because of the results of the ninth convention, at which Guzman and Jacobo Majluta were chosen as candidates, thus losing the support of the silent majority. [sentence as received]

In view of these perspectives, a much-desired opposition bloc may be formed with single candidates for the May elections.

JAMAICA

JLP CALLS FOR PROBE INTO 5 JAN SHOOTING AT FIRING RANGE

FL251500Y Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 21 Jan 78 p 1 FL

[Text] The Jamaica Labour Party has called for a full public enquiry into the circumstances surrounding the shooting of five men at the Jamaica Defence Force firing range at Green Bay on January 5.

In a statement issued yesterday by the opposition spokesman on national security and natural justice, Senator Winston Spaulding, the JLP said the killings had excited a great deal of public controversy, rumour and damaging speculation.

Although a number of persons had positively and publicly given accounts and interpretations which serious challenged the official version, there had been no official response, the JLP said.

The statement continued:

A number of important questions have been raised concerning this matter which remain strangely unanswered. Government and the competent authorities can no longer remain silent in this matter without severely impairing the credit of constituted authority.

The JLP is disturbed that serious matters concerning security and justice has consistently been pushed aside without full and credible explanations, thereby affecting the image of the security forces and creating widespread public uneasiness.

"It is vital that public confidence in the operations of the security forces be fully restored if we are to begin to seriously try to tackle the monumental problem of crime in our society. The co-operation of the people with the competent authorites is indispensable to success in this critical area.

"Mutual respect which flows from truth and integrity on all sides is an important basis for achieving this.

"For these reasons in the fullest interest of not only national security but justice, the JLP strongly urges this government not to treat with indifference this request and the other public calls for an enquiry."

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

VENEZUELA RELEASES DETAINED TRINIDAD FISHERMEN

FL251455Y Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 23 Jan 78 p 1 FL

[Excerpt] The Trinidad fishermen who were held last Wednesday by Venezuelan guards returned home yesterday. They were happy not only to be back home, but about the good treatment they received while in custody. They said they were given double-decker beds and plenty of food, unlike previous occasions. They sounded one sad note, however, and that was stern warnings given to them not to return to the mainland shrimping grounds. Cedros-based Sharma Singh said: "We were warned that if we were caught again, we will be jailed for periods varying between three months to six months, with meals consisting of only bread and water."

The warnings were so stern, that "I have decided not to go back", he added. Some 42 fishermen from Cedros, Icacos and Oropouche were held and taken to Pedernales with their 18 boats, then sent to Tucupita, where they were detained. They were released on Saturday morning.

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